

HICKMAN • EPTING • KITSON



TM

VOL
1

MARVEL

TOMORROW

Before his death, the Human Torch made his wishes known: If anyone were to replace him in the Fantastic Four, it should be his best super-hero buddy, Spider-Man

But even with the addition of Spidey to their ranks, Mr. Fantastic, the Invisible Woman and the Thing are now so much more than four. Welcome to the FF — the Future Foundation! Marvel's First Family has moved beyond the simple pursuits of super heroing into a bold new era of discovery. But to make tomorrow today, they'll need to expand their ranks even beyond Spider-Man and their genius children. What does the future mean when it depends on the likes of the Wizard, the Mad Thinker, A.I.M and Dr. Doom?



“...HICKMAN IS WRITING ONE OF THE MOST ENGROSSING FANTASTIC FOUR STORIES I’VE EVER READ. I CAN’T WAIT TO SEE WHERE THIS GOES.”

— Erik Norris, *IGN.com*

“...JONATHAN HICKMAN CONTINUES TO CARVE HIS PLACE AMONG THE BEST FF WRITERS OF ALL TIME.”

— Alex Evans,
WeeklyComicBookReview.com

T+

MARVEL

Collecting *FF* #1-5 — written by Jonathan Hickman (*Secret Warriors*), and illustrated by Steve Epting (*Captain America*) and Barry Kitson (*Amazing Spider-Man*).

HICKMAN • EPTING • KITSON



VOL
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MARVEL

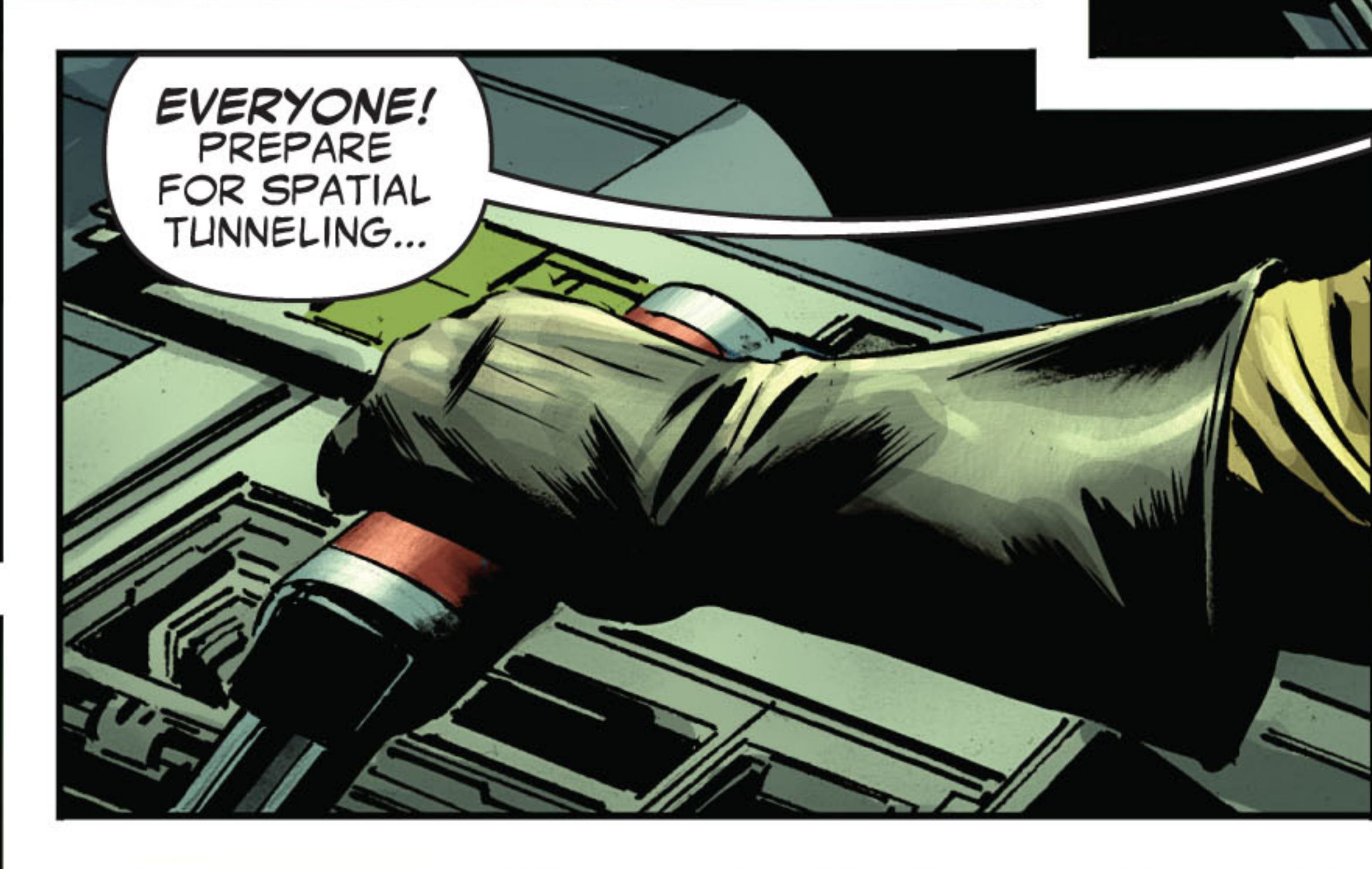
JONATHAN HICKMAN • STEVE EPTING • PAUL MOUNTS

FF

TM

ISSUE ONE







“THE CLUB”

**THE HUMAN TORCH HAS DIED.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR IS NO MORE.
WELCOME TO TOMORROW.
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE FOUNDATION.**

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

BETTER DAYS GONE BY: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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THE BAXTER BUILDING.



PLAY IT AGAIN.

...IF YOU'RE WATCHING THIS, GUYS, IT MEANS I'M DEAD.



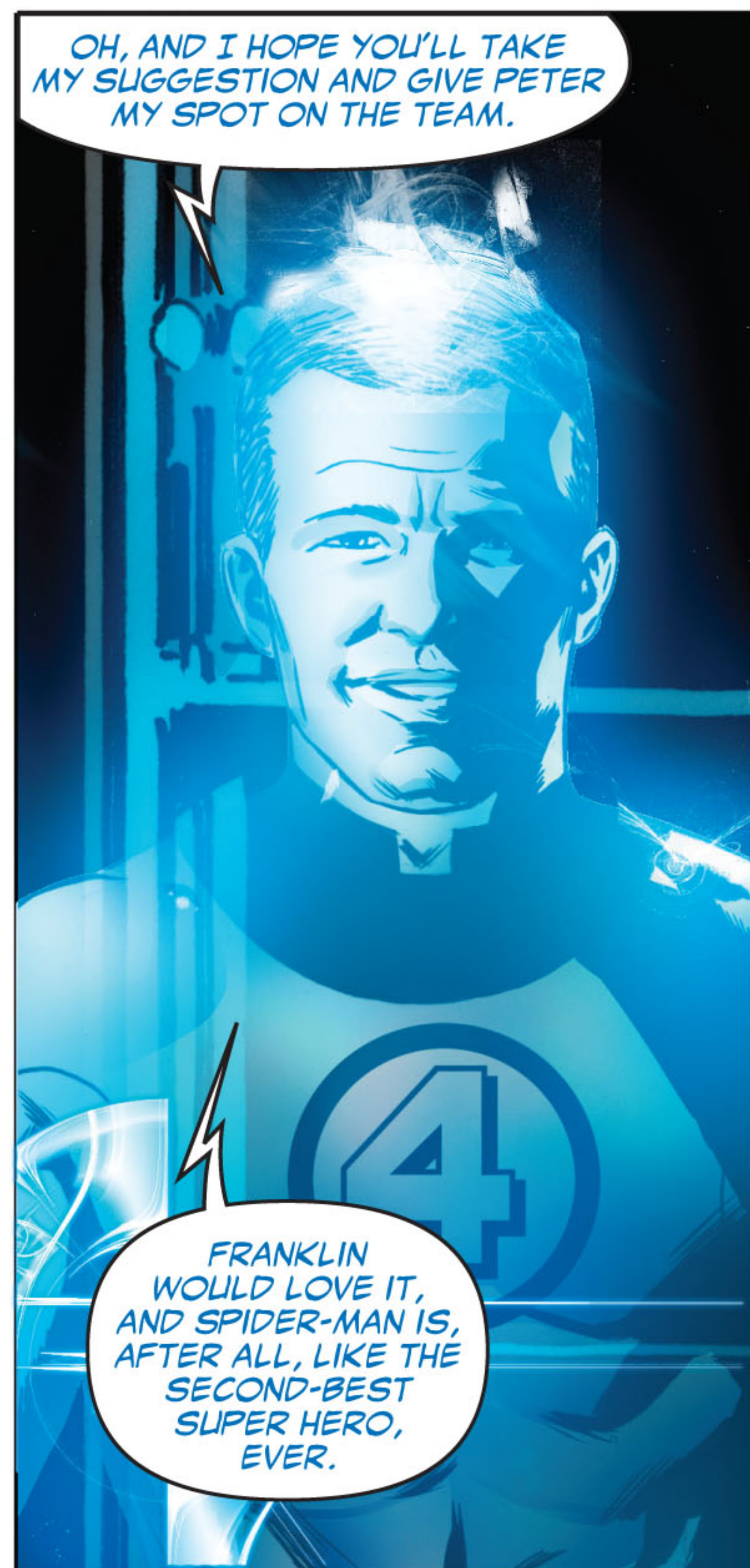
WHICH SUCKS, BUT REGARDLESS, THERE ARE A COUPLE THINGS I WANT YOU GUYS TO KNOW.

THERE ARE A HUNDRED GOOD REASONS WHY--THE WORLD, OUR FRIENDS, THE KIDS--BUT YOU CAN'T STOP DOING WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING. YOU HAVE TO PUSH HARDER THAN EVER.



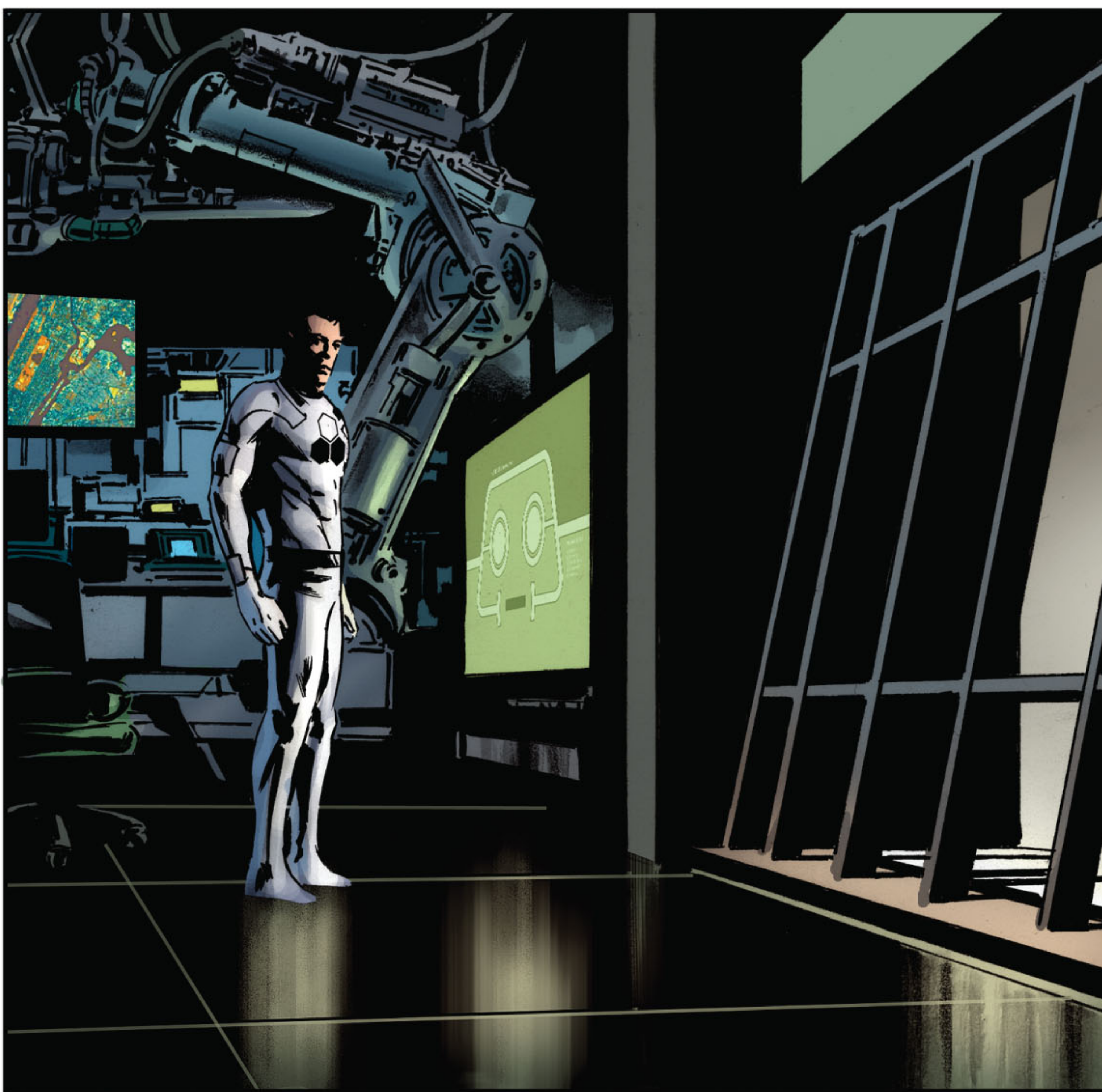
IGNORE HOW THINGS ARE. IGNORE HOW THEY SEEM.

MAKE THE WORLD BETTER.

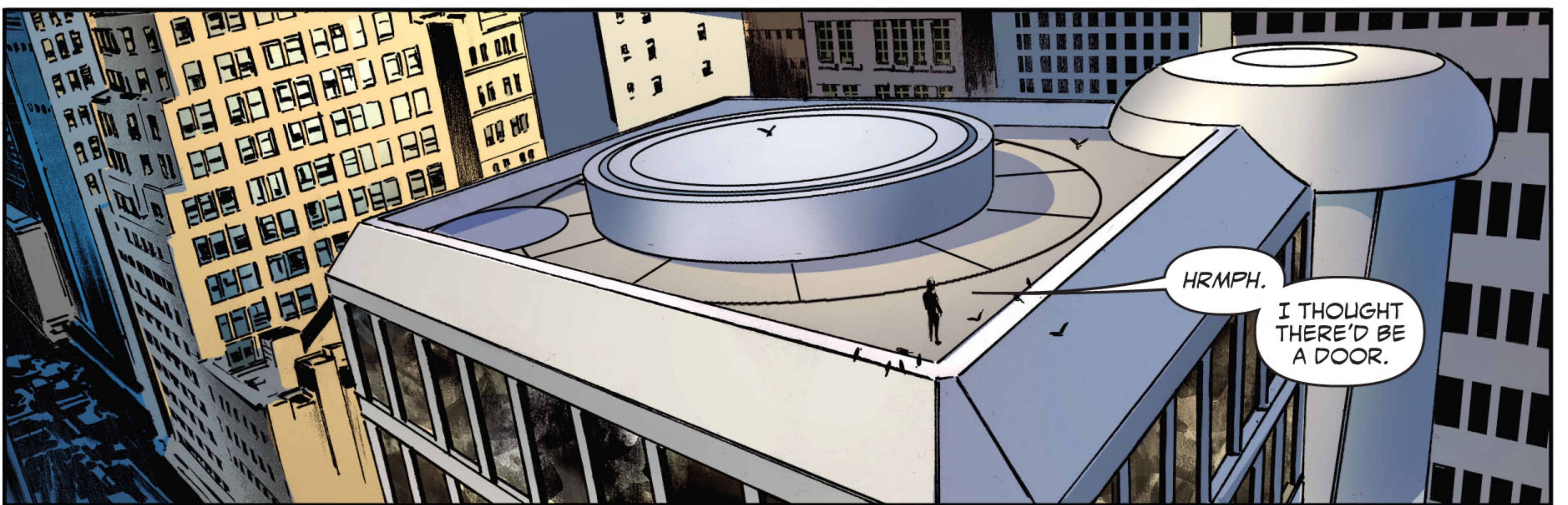


OH, AND I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE MY SUGGESTION AND GIVE PETER MY SPOT ON THE TEAM.

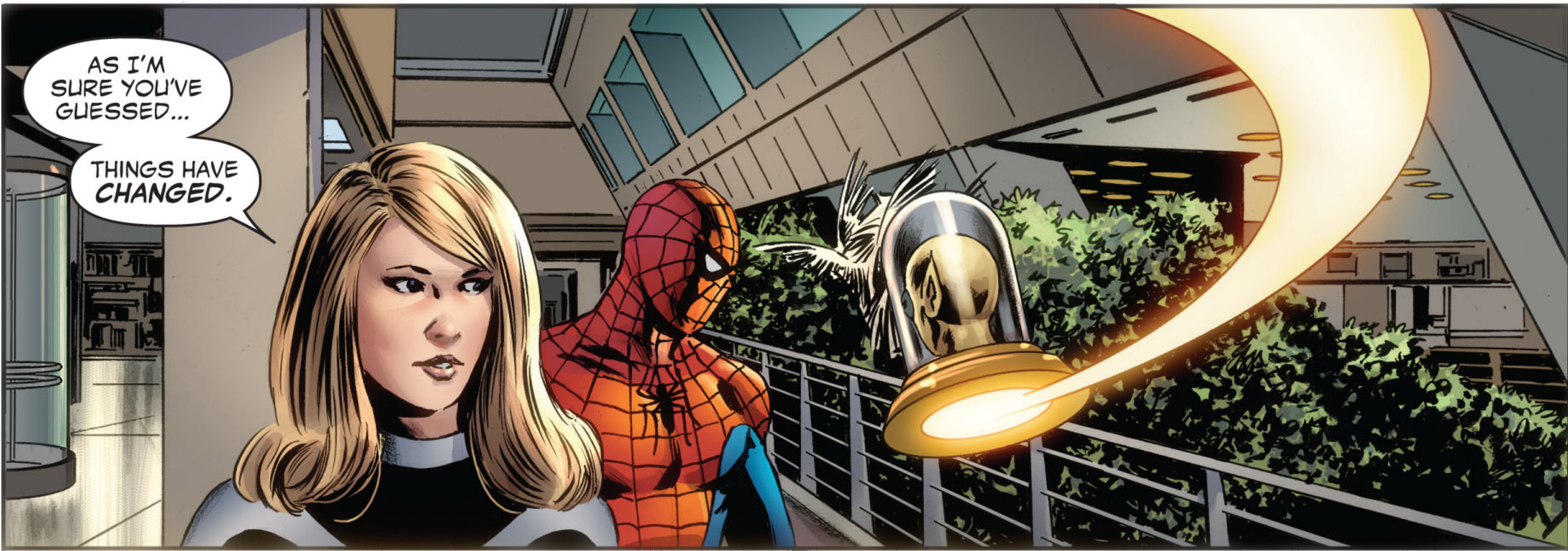
FRANKLIN WOULD LOVE IT, AND SPIDER-MAN IS, AFTER ALL, LIKE THE SECOND-BEST SUPER HERO, EVER.





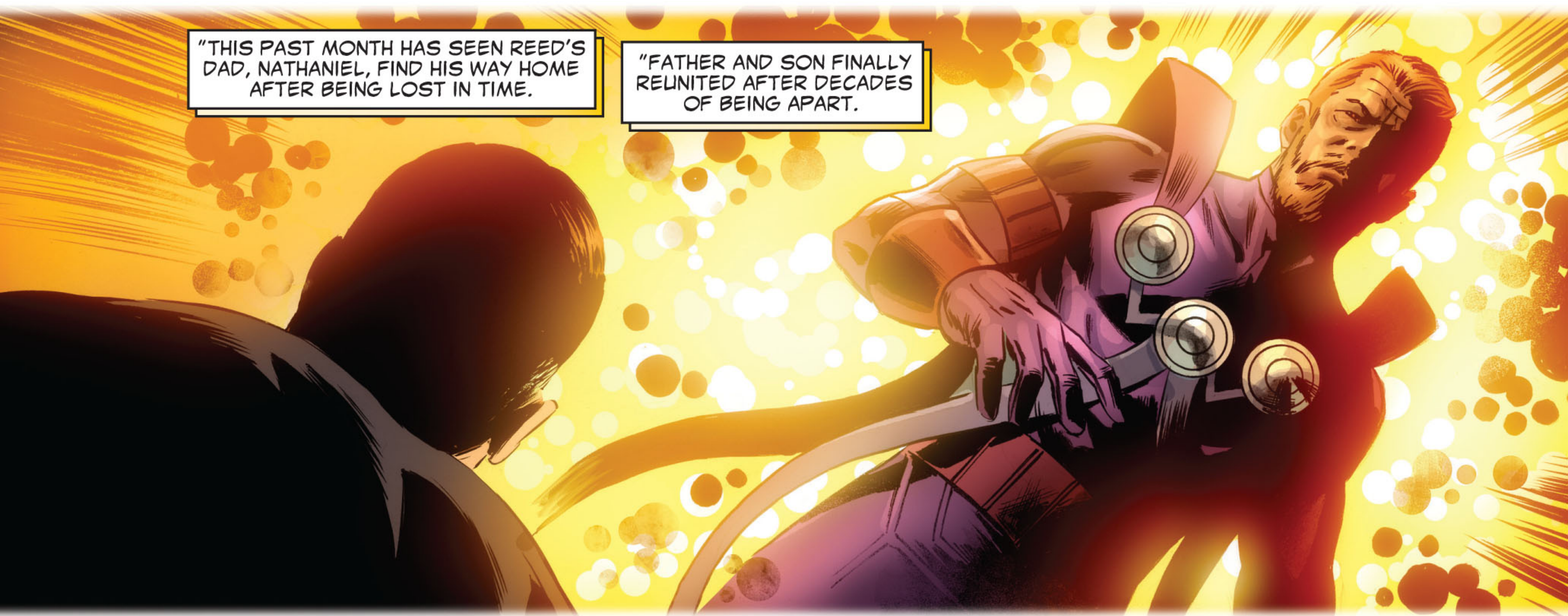






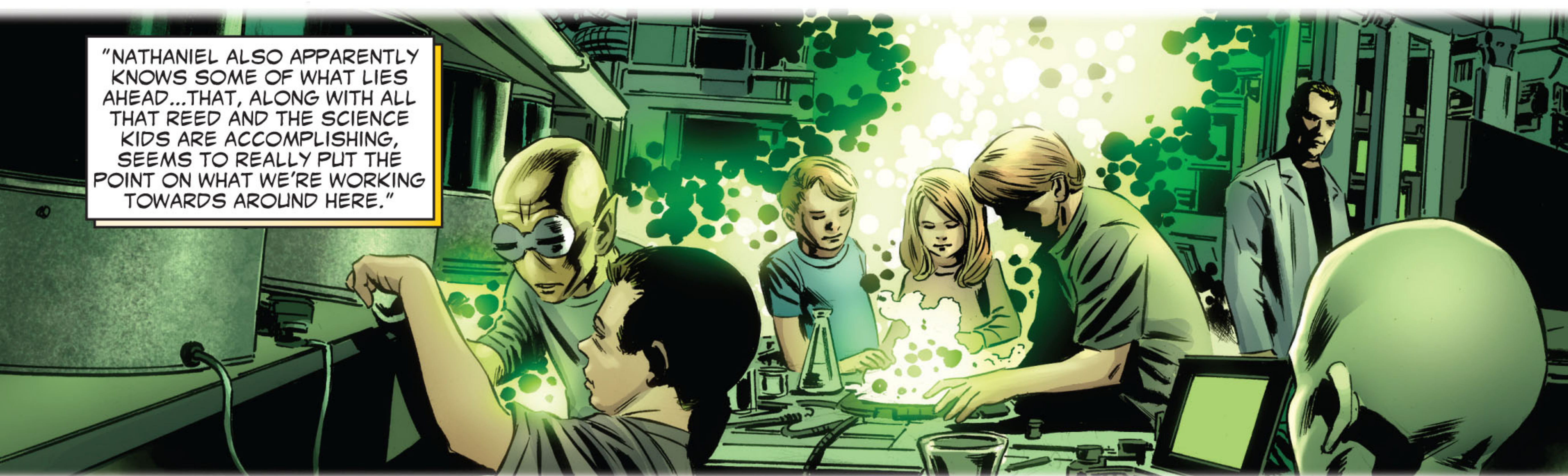
AS I'M
SURE YOU'VE
GUESSED...

THINGS HAVE
CHANGED.



"THIS PAST MONTH HAS SEEN REED'S
DAD, NATHANIEL, FIND HIS WAY HOME
AFTER BEING LOST IN TIME.

"FATHER AND SON FINALLY
REUNITED AFTER DECADES
OF BEING APART.

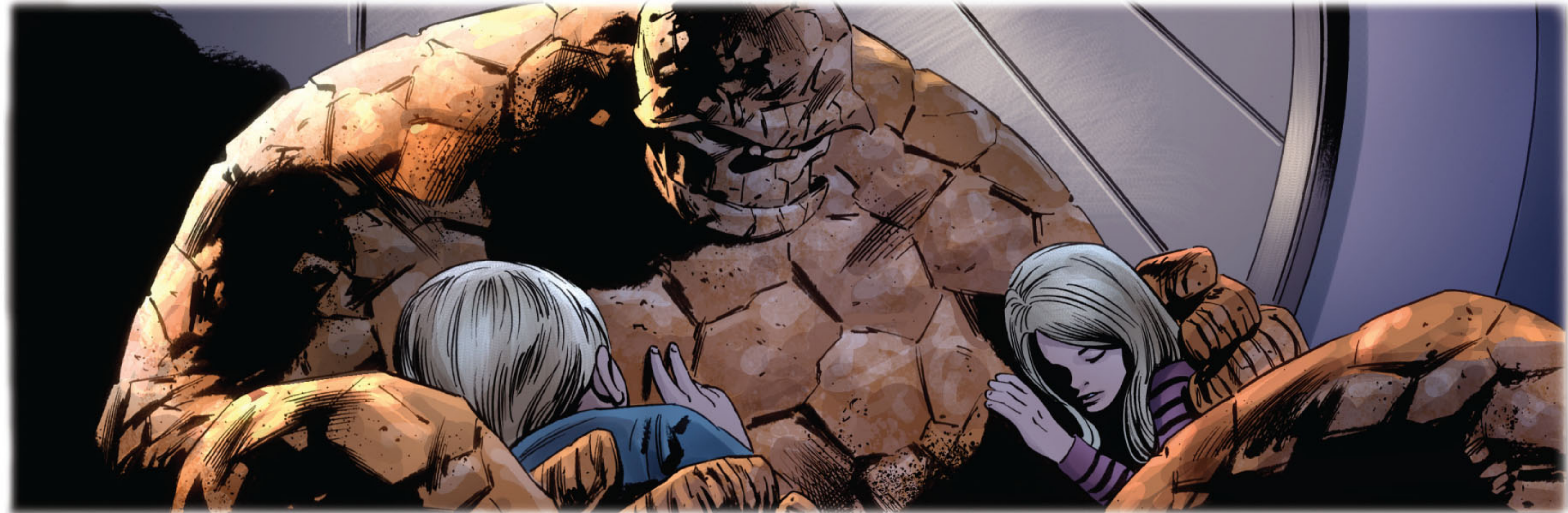
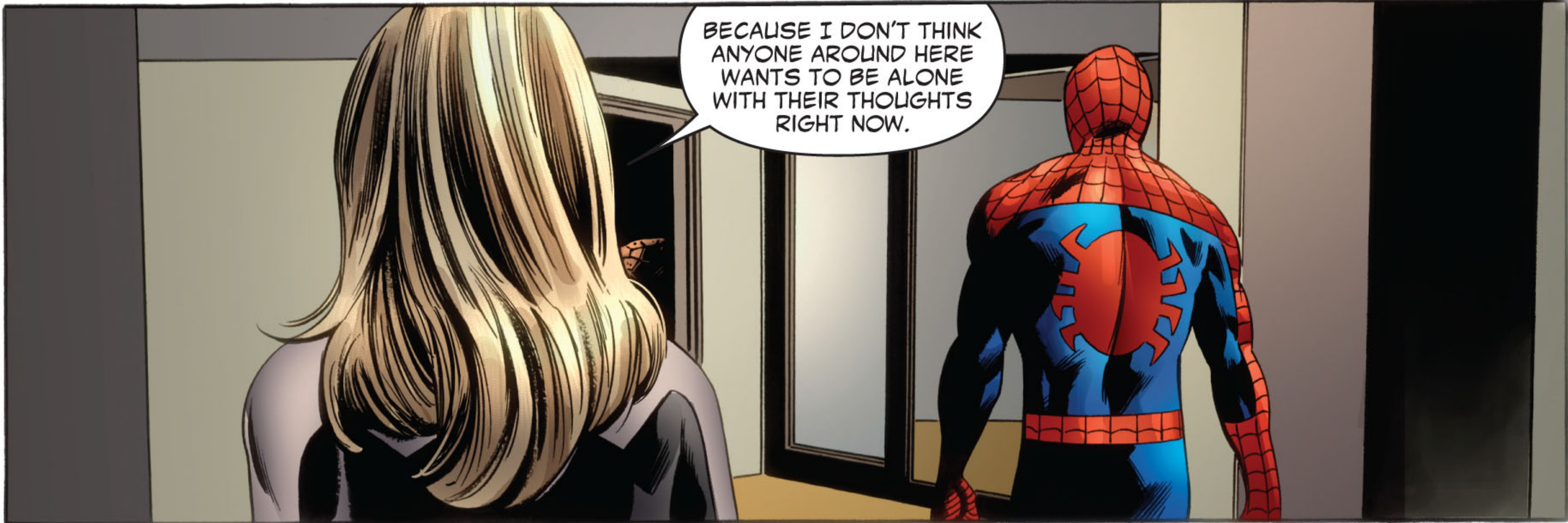
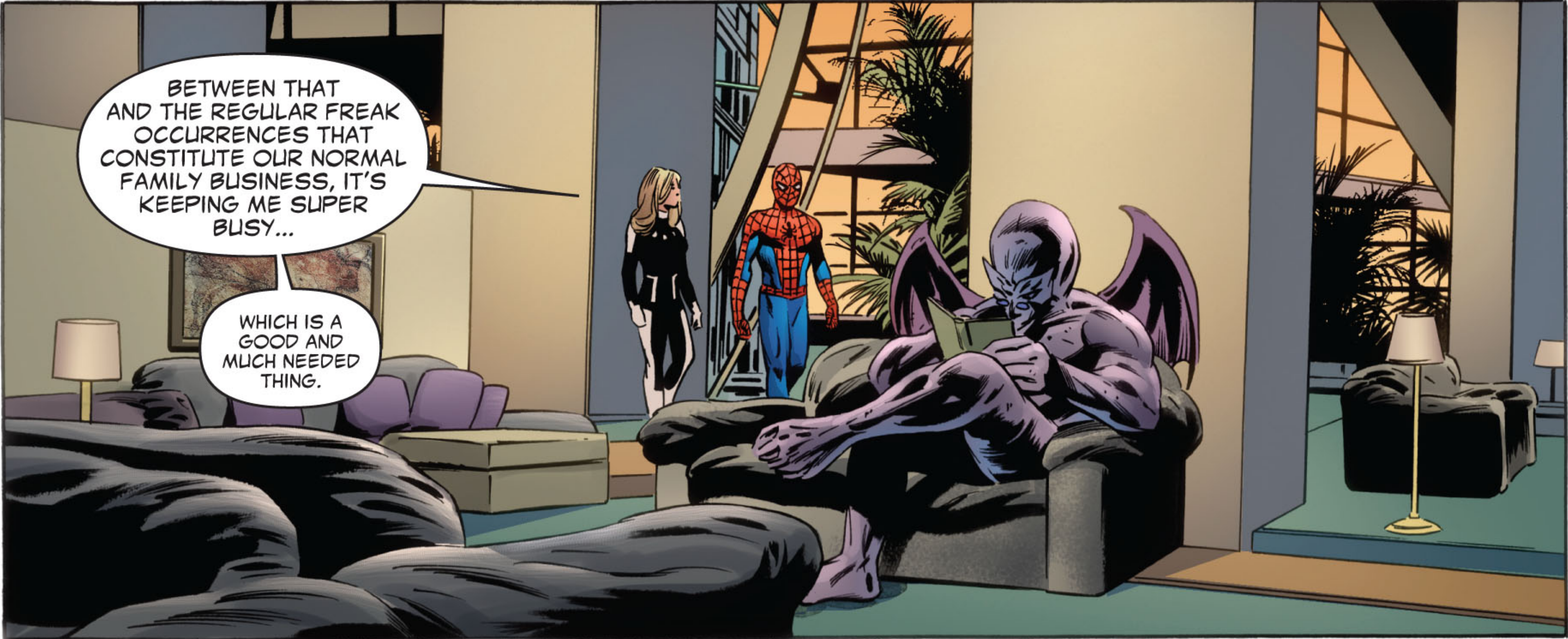


"NATHANIEL ALSO APPARENTLY
KNOWS SOME OF WHAT LIES
AHEAD...THAT, ALONG WITH ALL
THAT REED AND THE SCIENCE
KIDS ARE ACCOMPLISHING,
SEEMS TO REALLY PUT THE
POINT ON WHAT WE'RE WORKING
TOWARDS AROUND HERE."



THE FUTURE
FOUNDATION IS
ABOUT CHANGING
THE WORLD, PETER.
FOREVER.

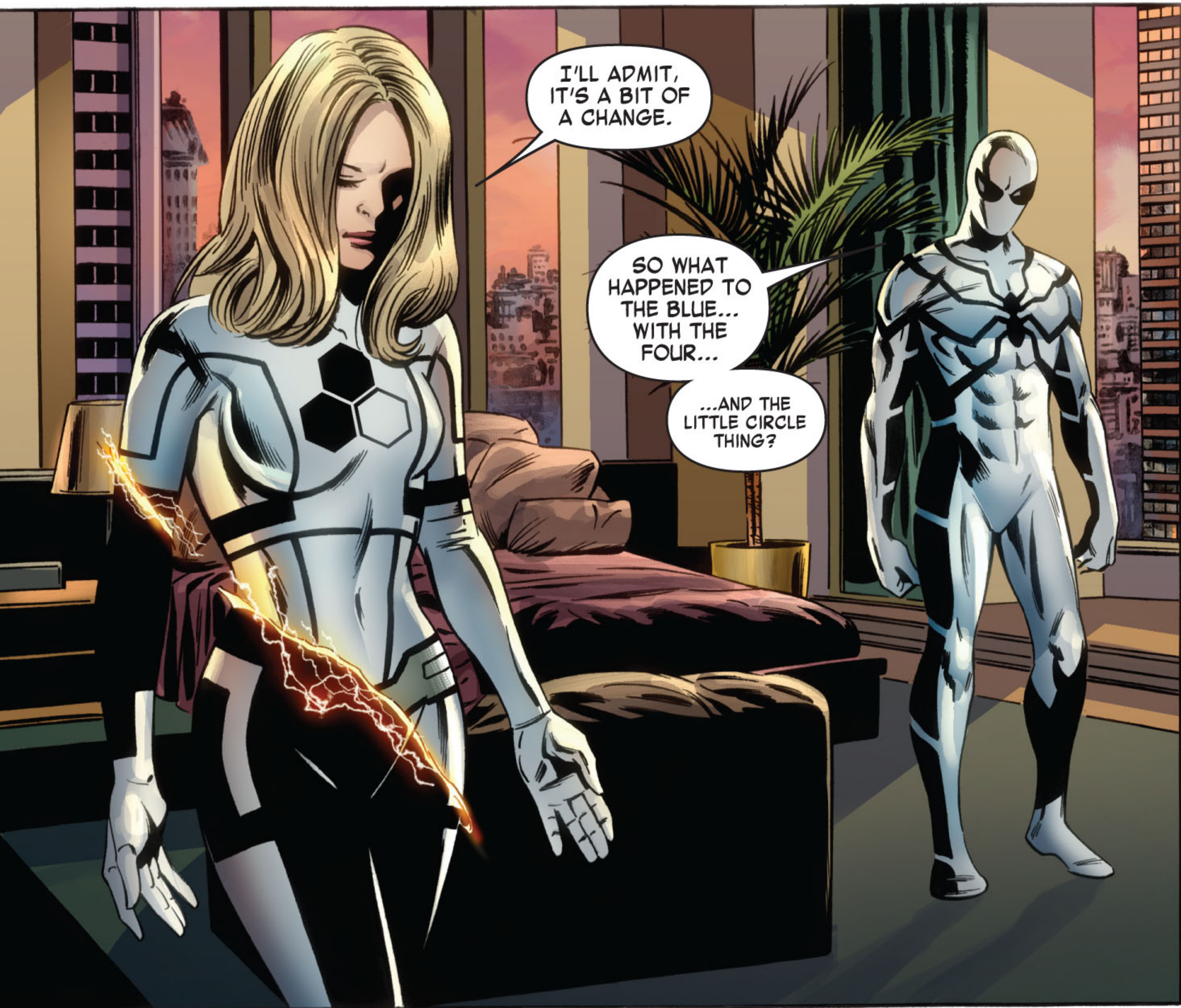
YOU'RE
GOING TO
LOVE IT.







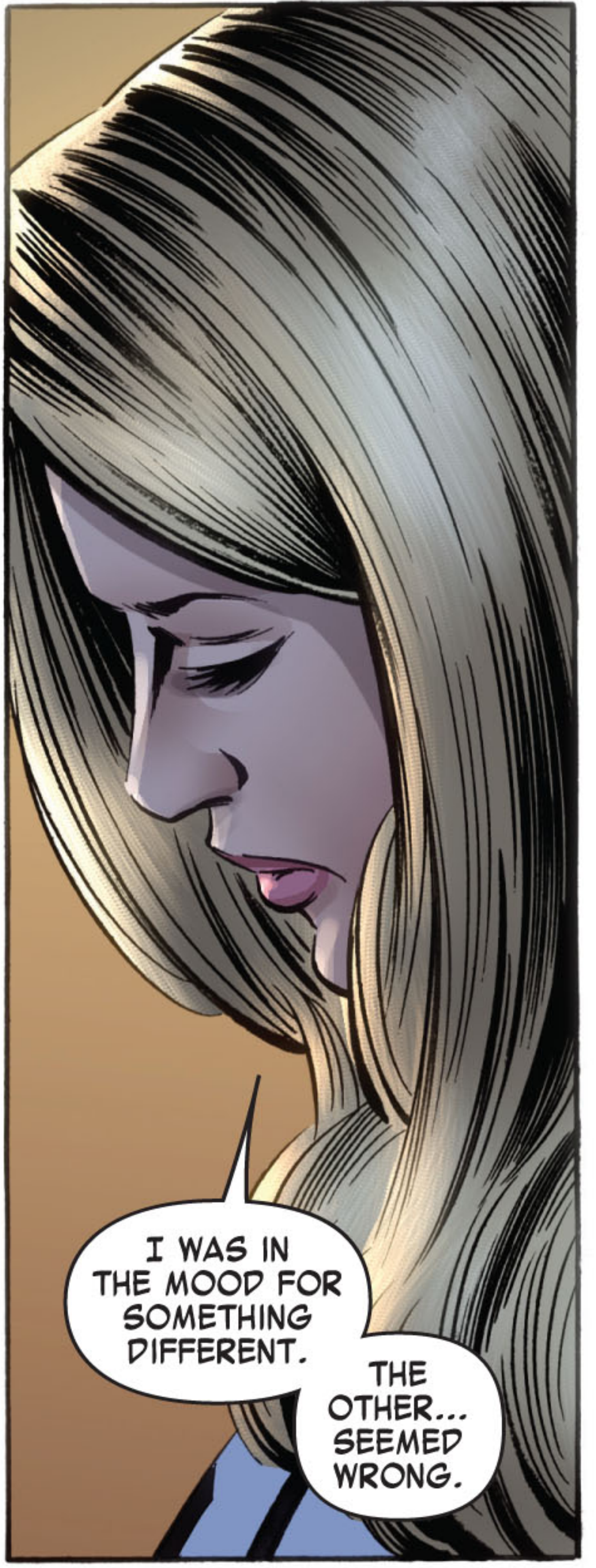
OKAY, I GOTTA TELL YOU, THIS IS NOT WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.



I'LL ADMIT, IT'S A BIT OF A CHANGE.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BLUE... WITH THE FOUR...

...AND THE LITTLE CIRCLE THING?



I WAS IN THE MOOD FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

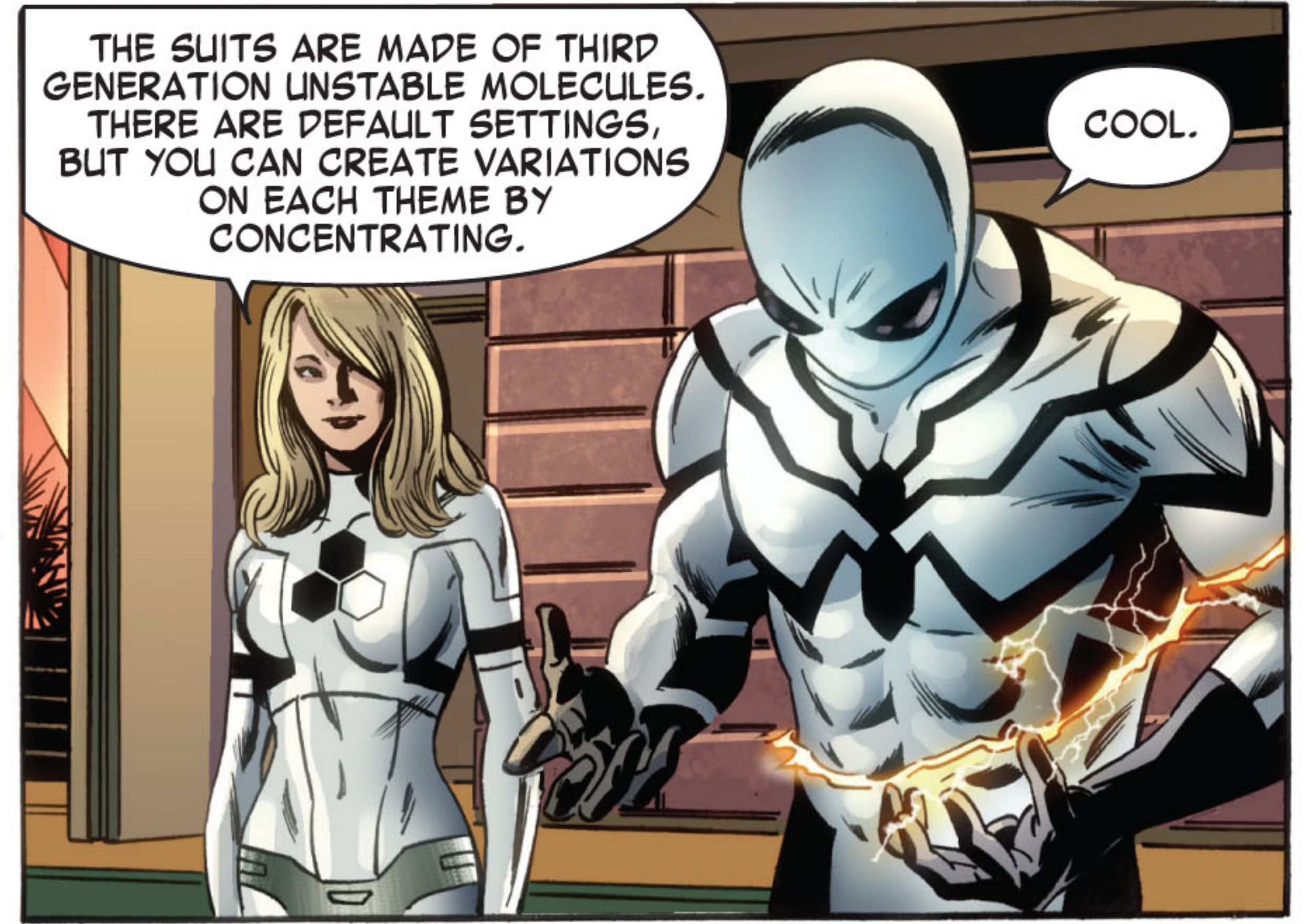
THE OTHER... SEEMED WRONG.



AND IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE A BLACK AND WHITE WORLD RIGHT NOW, DOESN'T IT?

BESIDES, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN CHANGE IT ANYTIME YOU WANT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN...HUH?



THE SUITS ARE MADE OF THIRD GENERATION UNSTABLE MOLECULES. THERE ARE DEFAULT SETTINGS, BUT YOU CAN CREATE VARIATIONS ON EACH THEME BY CONCENTRATING.

COOL.

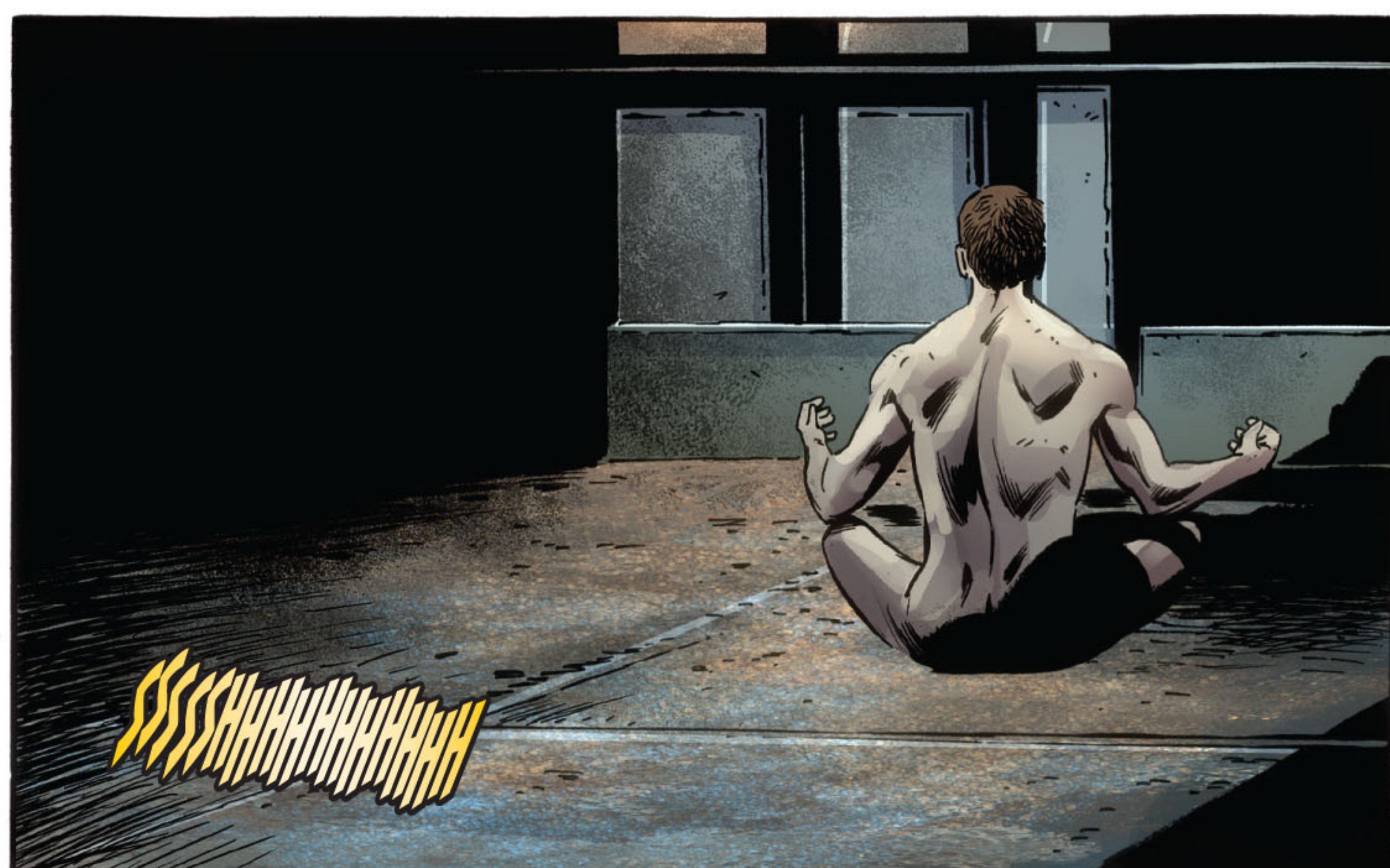


ALERT: LEVEL 5 THREAT.

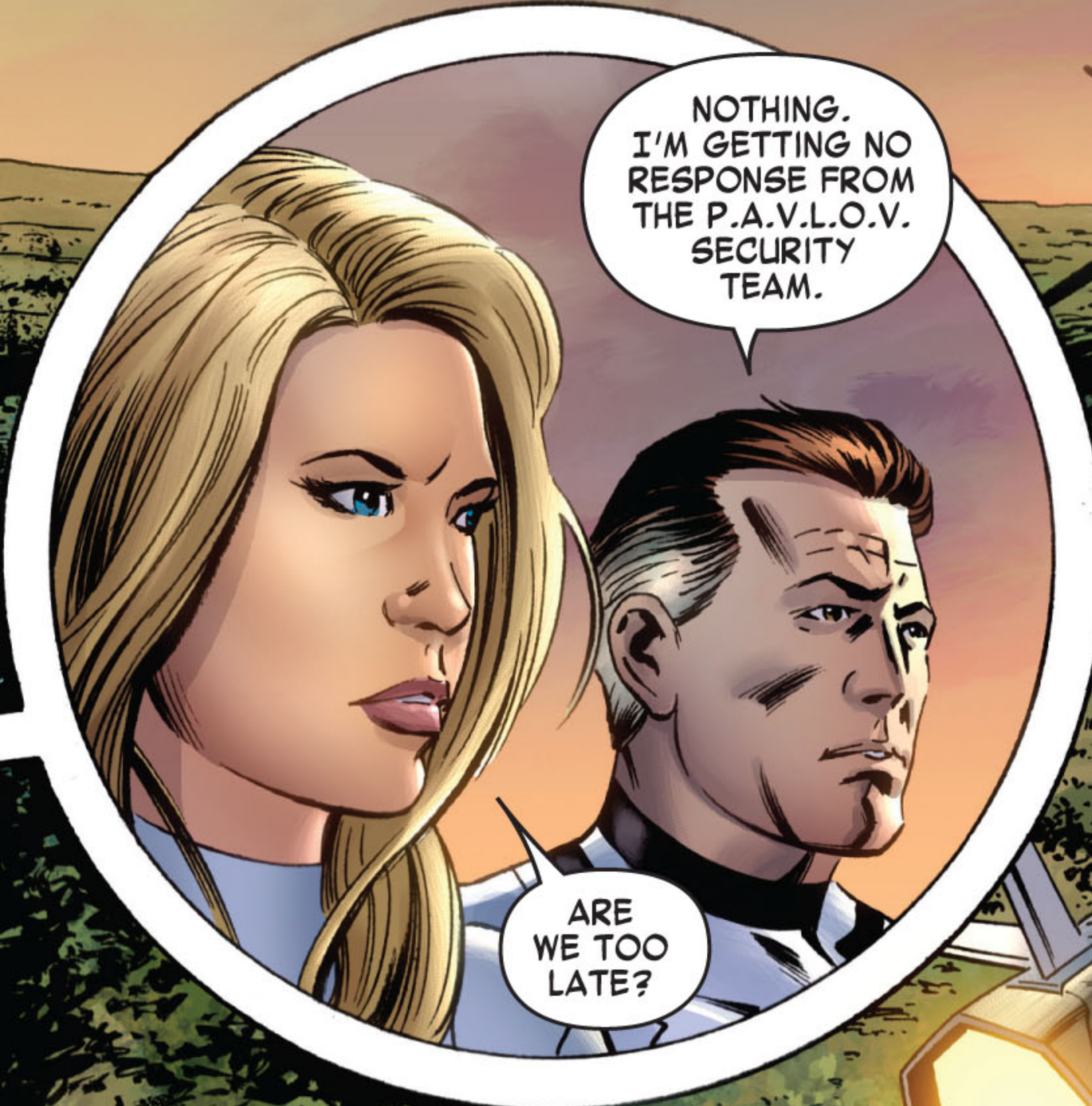
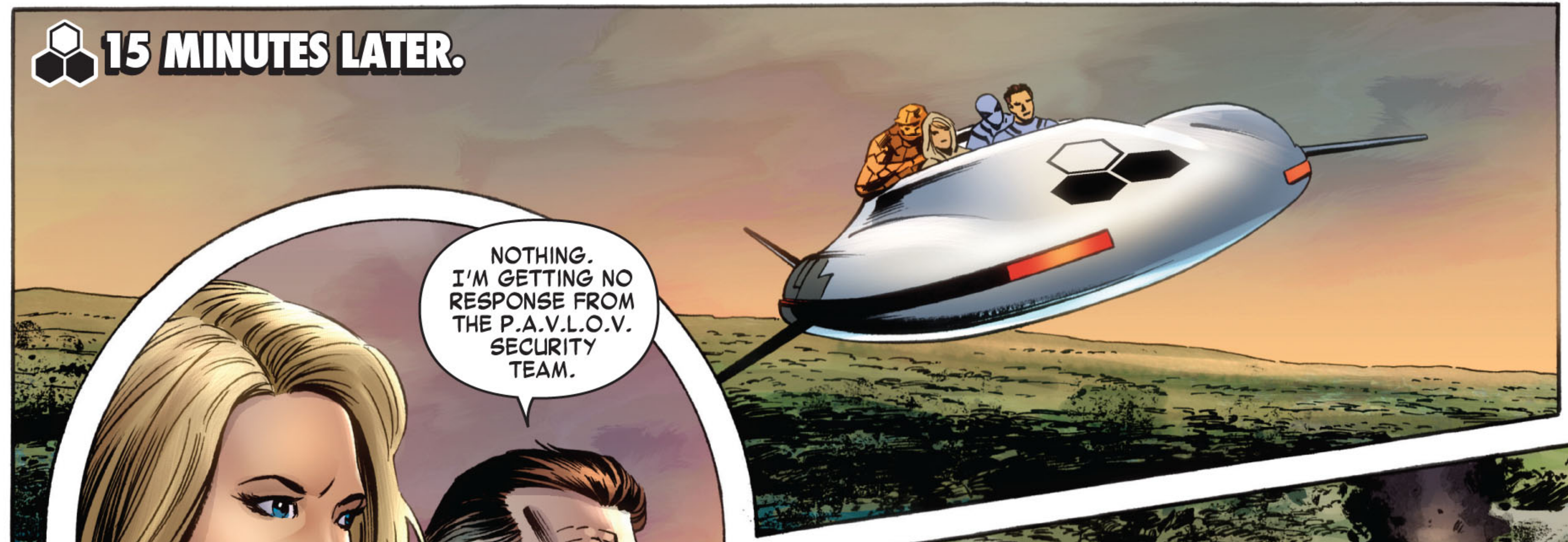
INCIDENT UNDERWAY AT THE P.A.V.L.O.V. FACILITY.

UH, WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK.

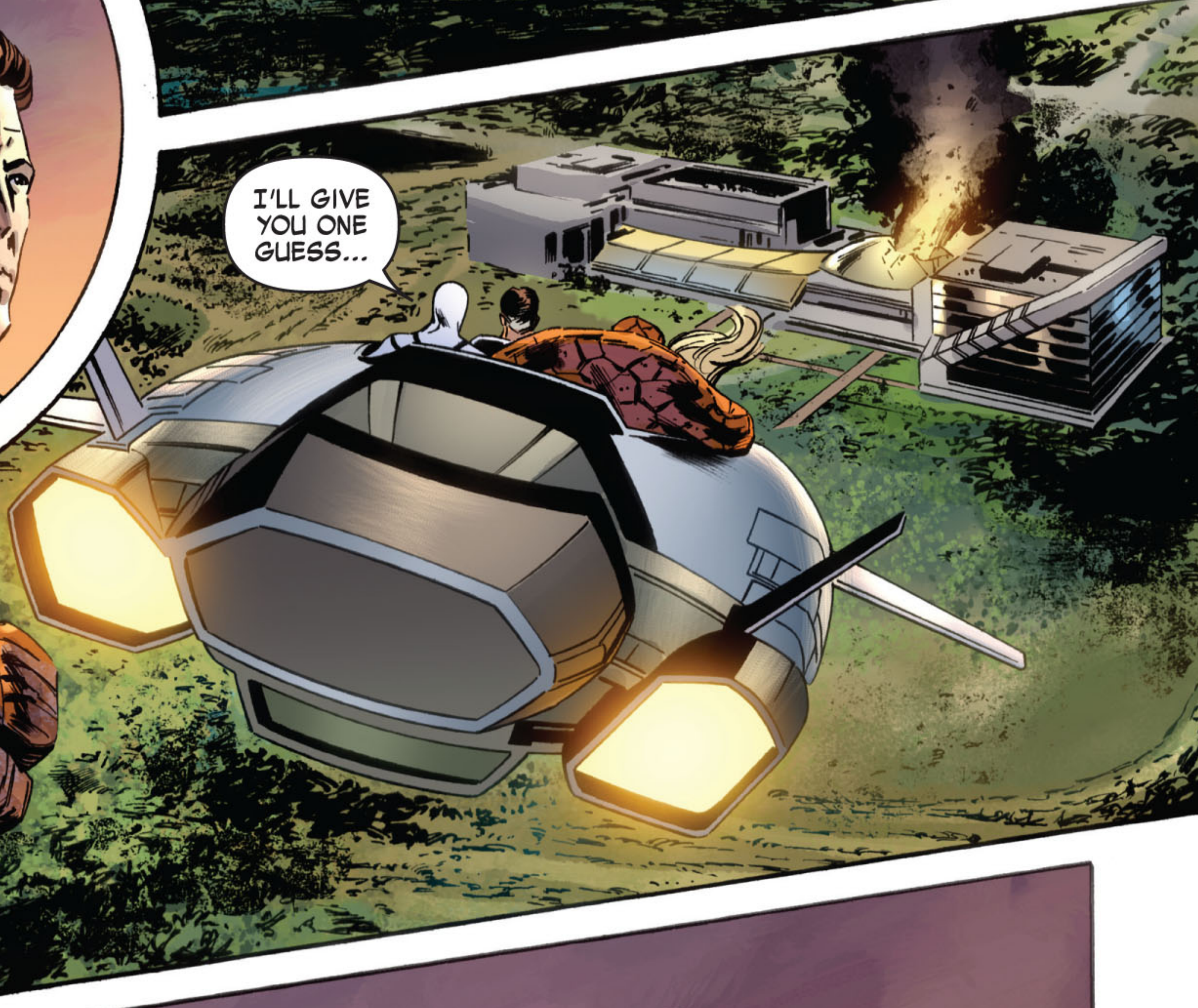


 15 MINUTES LATER.



NOTHING.
I'M GETTING NO
RESPONSE FROM
THE P.A.V.L.O.V.
SECURITY
TEAM.

ARE
WE TOO
LATE?



I'LL GIVE
YOU ONE
GUESS...



I'M
GOIN'.

TRY AN'
KEEP UP...



SO...YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HANDLE THESE GUYS YOURSELF?

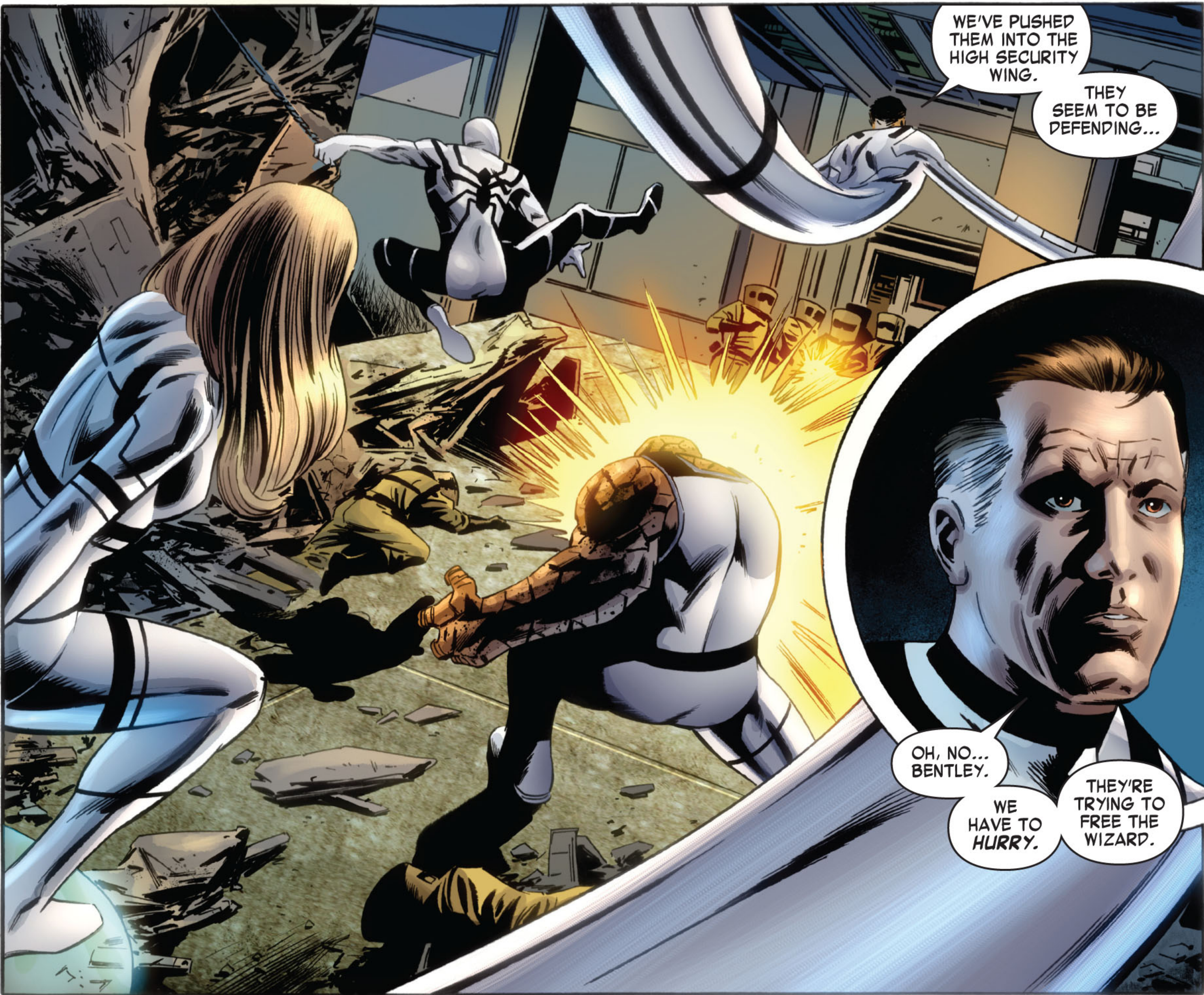
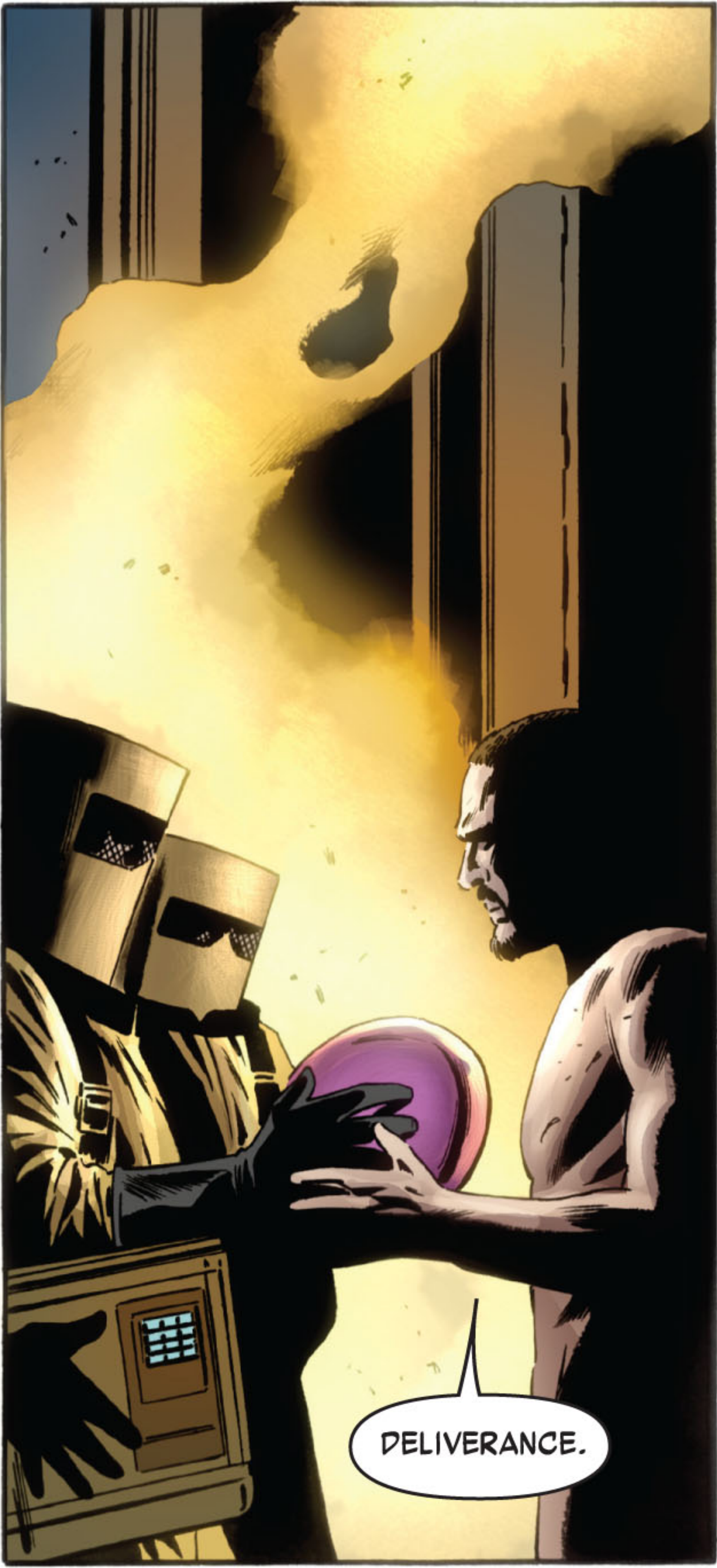
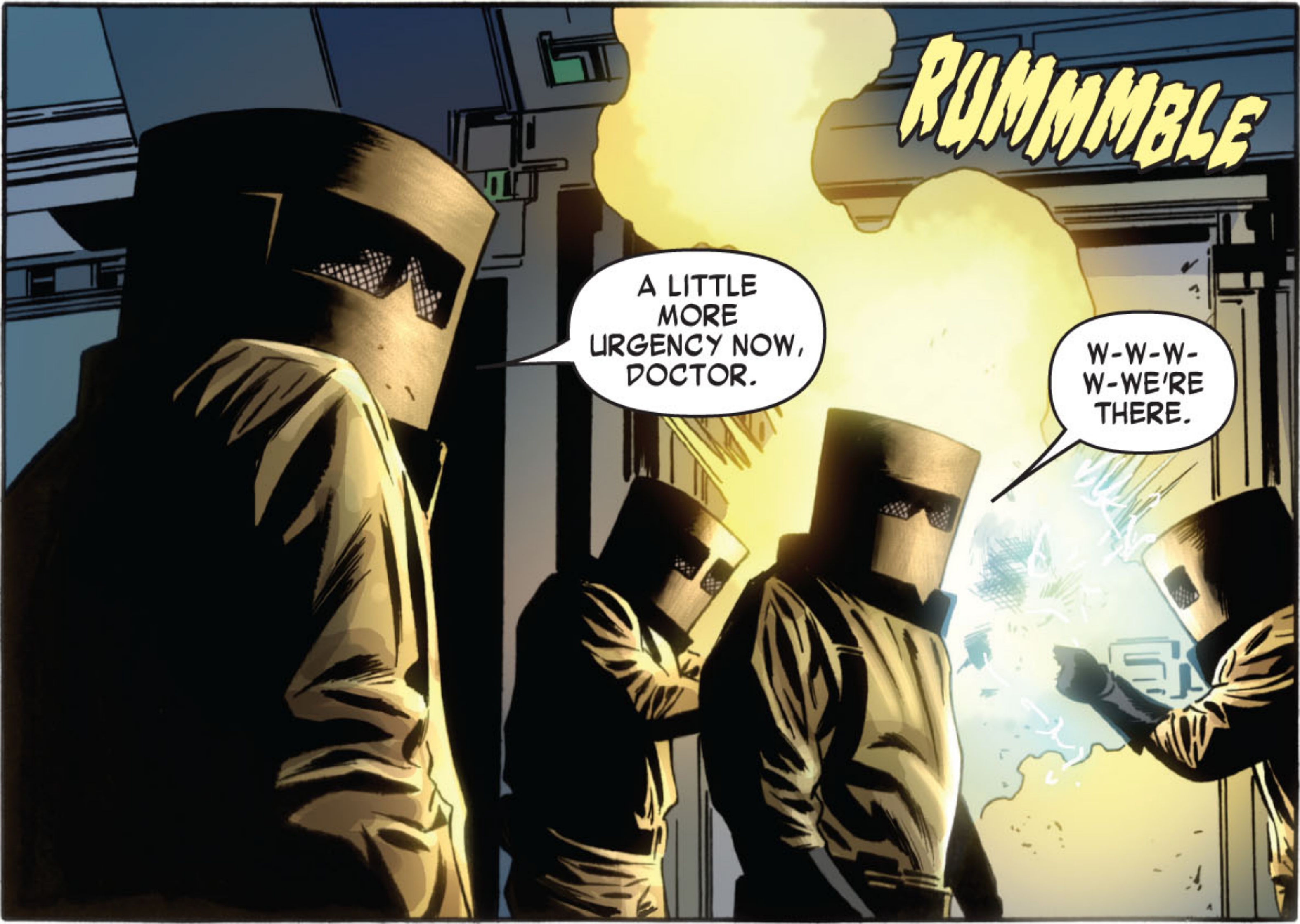
I DON'T MUCH FEEL LIKE JOKIN', WEB-HEAD...

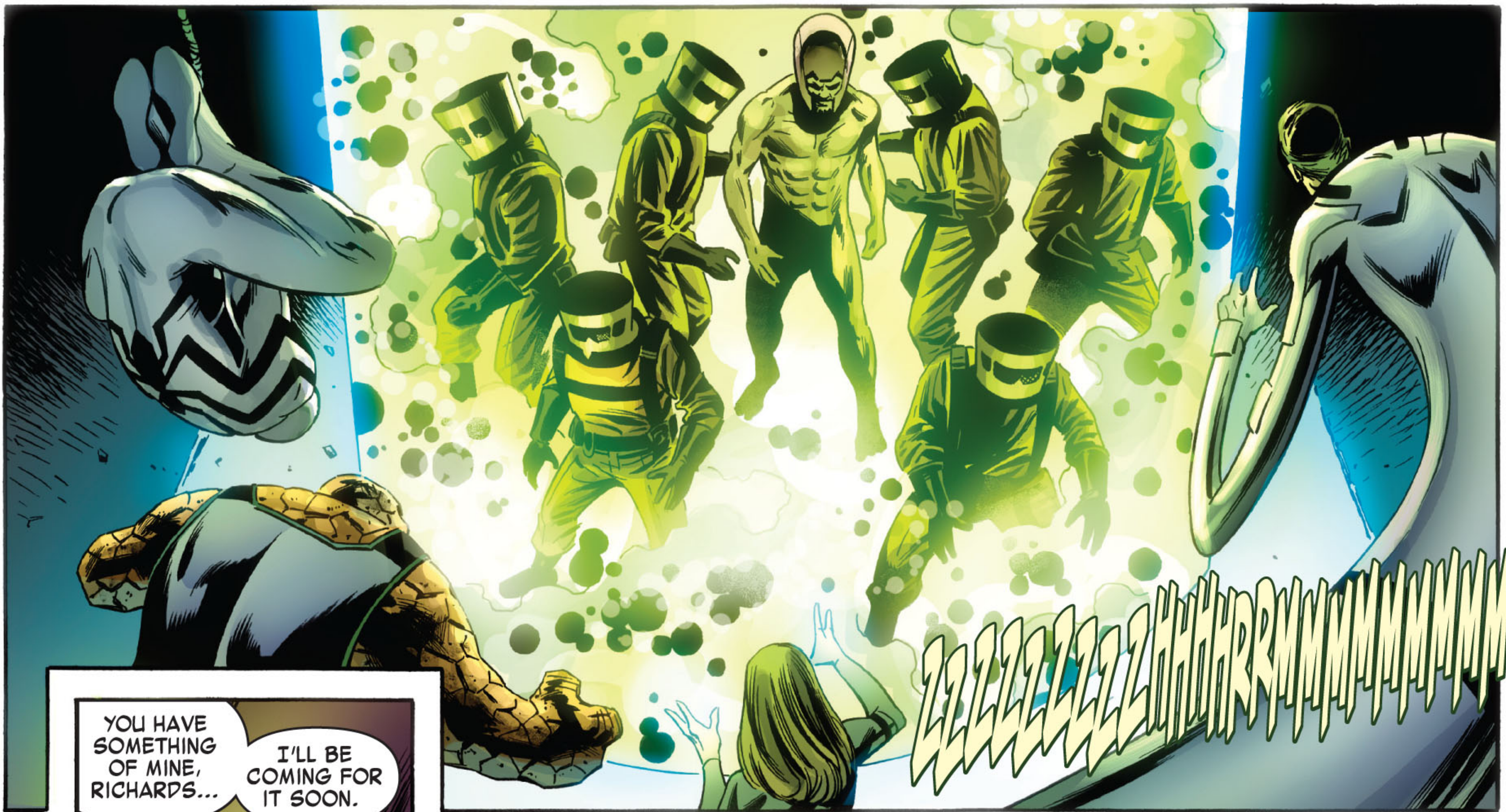
RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANNA BREAK SOMETHIN'.

CRASH!!



BA-BA-BOOOON!





YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
OF MINE,
RICHARDS...

I'LL BE
COMING FOR
IT SOON.



THAT'S GONNA
BE A PROBLEM,
AIN'T IT?

UNDOUBTEDLY.

GREAT.

SO IS THERE
ANYTHING POSITIVE
WE CAN TAKE FROM
MY FIRST DAY
ON THE JOB?

I'M PRETTY
SURE DAD'S
MAKING
ROAST.



THE BAXTER BUILDING.
LATER.



DINNER'S
READY!

SMELLS REAL
GOOD,
MR. RICHARDS.

I'M GLAD
YOU APPROVE,
BENJAMIN.

WE CAN'T HAVE
YOU BOYS GOING
HUNGRY, NOW
CAN WE?

MAYBE. I'M
WATCHIN' MY
FIGURE.



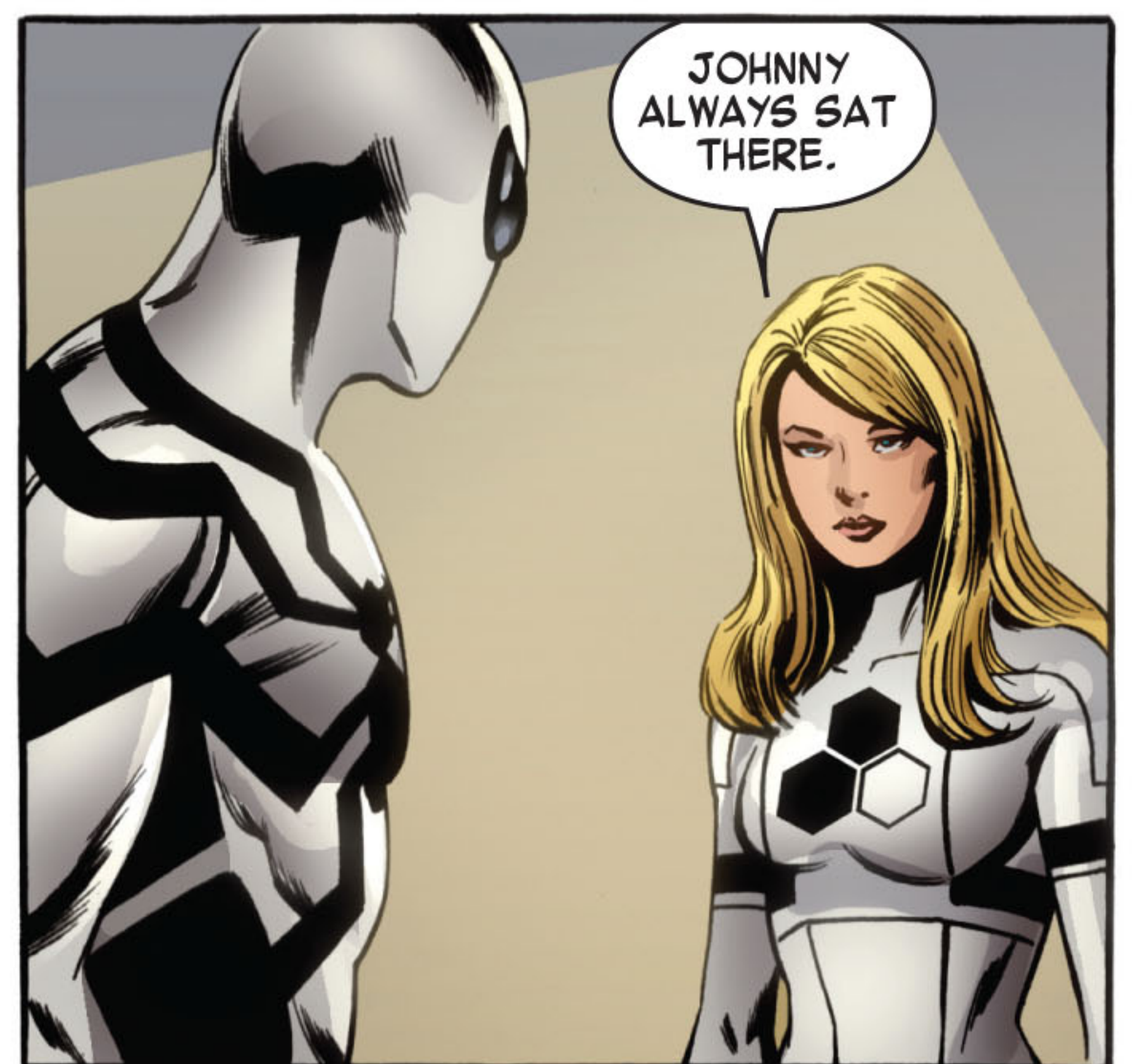
SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF, I'M
STARVING.

SPIDER-MAN!
YOU CAN'T SIT
THERE.



WHAT?

THAT'S
NOT YOUR
SEAT.



JOHNNY
ALWAYS SAT
THERE.



AH, OKAY...SORRY,
FRANKLIN, WON'T
HAPPEN AGAIN.



ALEX, WILL YOU DO THE HONORS?

OF COURSE.



DEAR GOD...

OR OTHER SIMILAR JUDEO-CHRISTIAN MESSIANIC FIGURE...



OR THE ANCIENT ONES...



OR SOME WEIRD EVOLUTIONARY SOMETHING-OR-OTHER...

BLESS THE MACHINE AND THIS CARCASS WE ARE ABOUT TO EAT,

BLESS THE BUBBLE AND THE LIFE THAT LIVES WITHIN.

MAY THEIR ADVANCEMENT TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

MAY THIS MEAL BE REALLY FREAKING TASTY.

MURGLE. MURGLE



OR SOME RANDOM CONFLUENCE OF EVENTS THAT RESULTED IN THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR LIFE TO FLOURISH ON THIS ONCE-BARREN, DESOLATE HUNK OF ROCK...

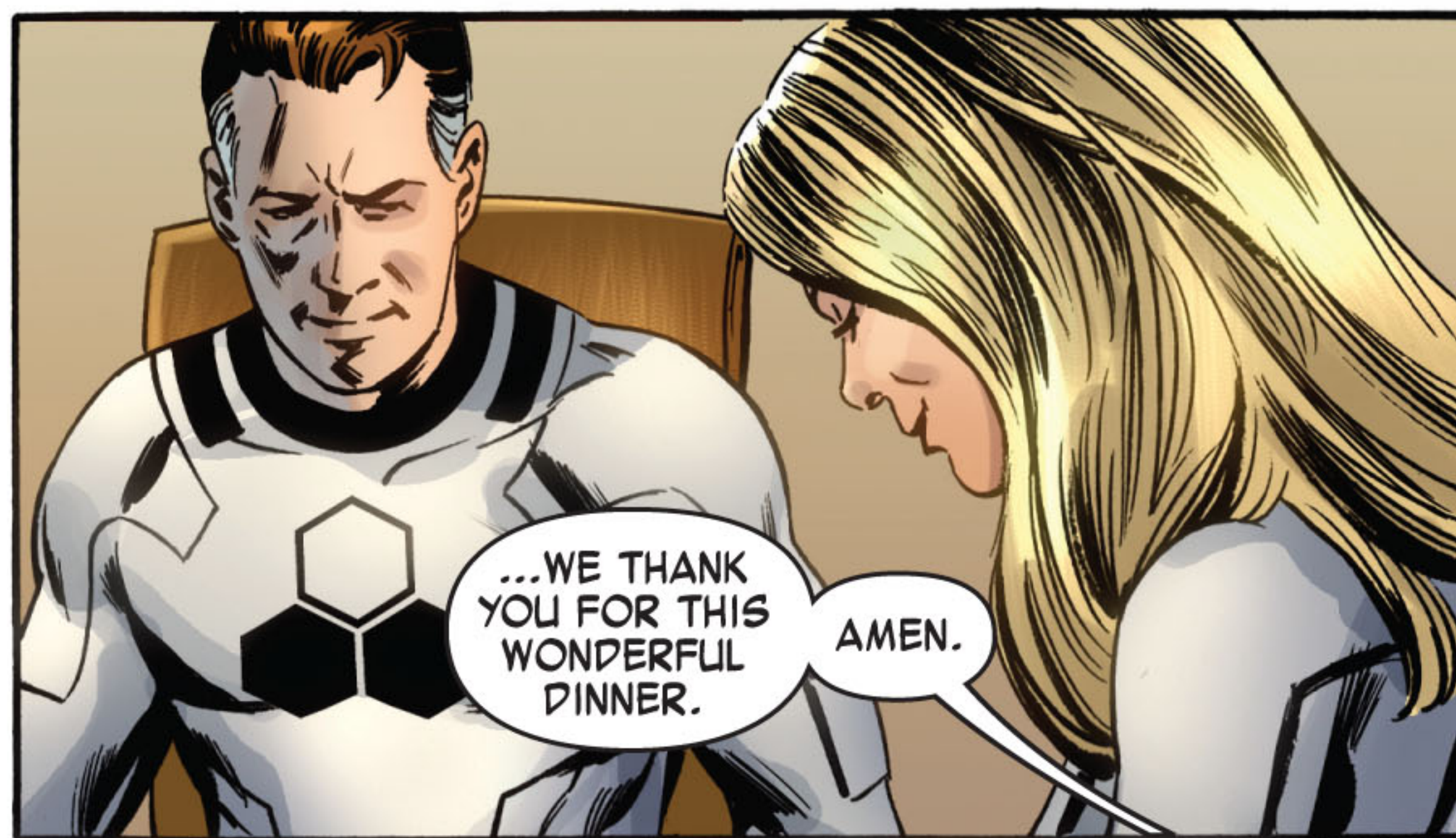


WE THANK YOU FOR...

AHEM.

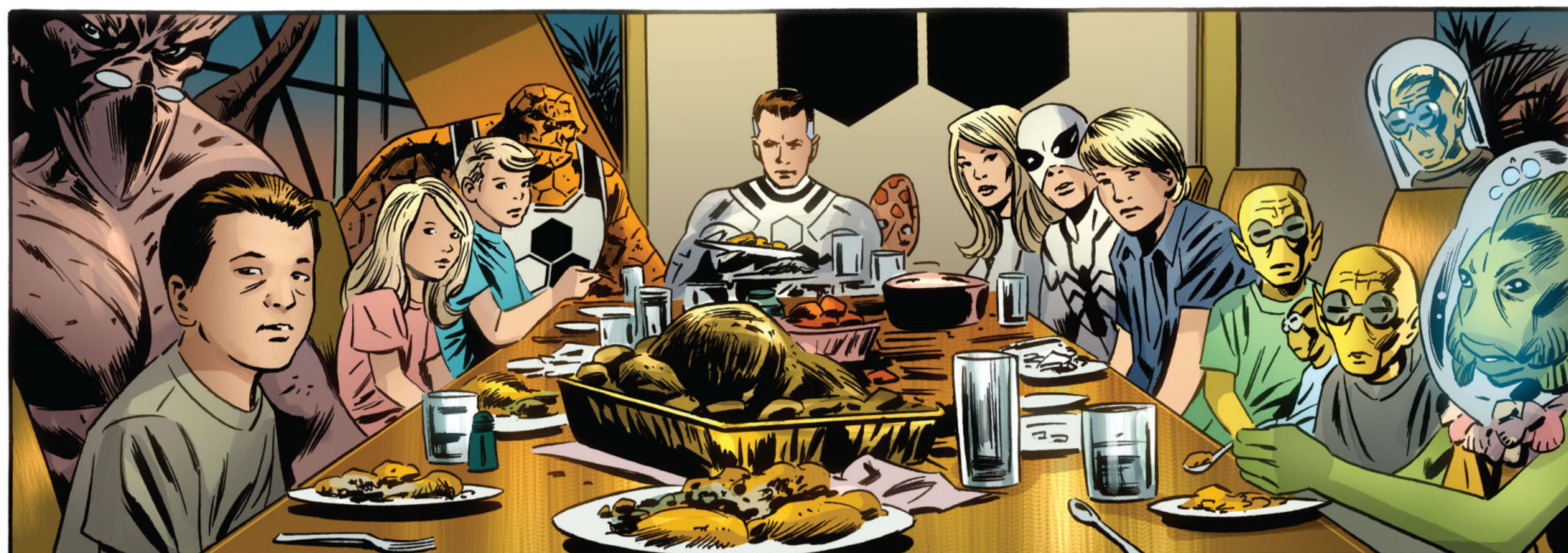
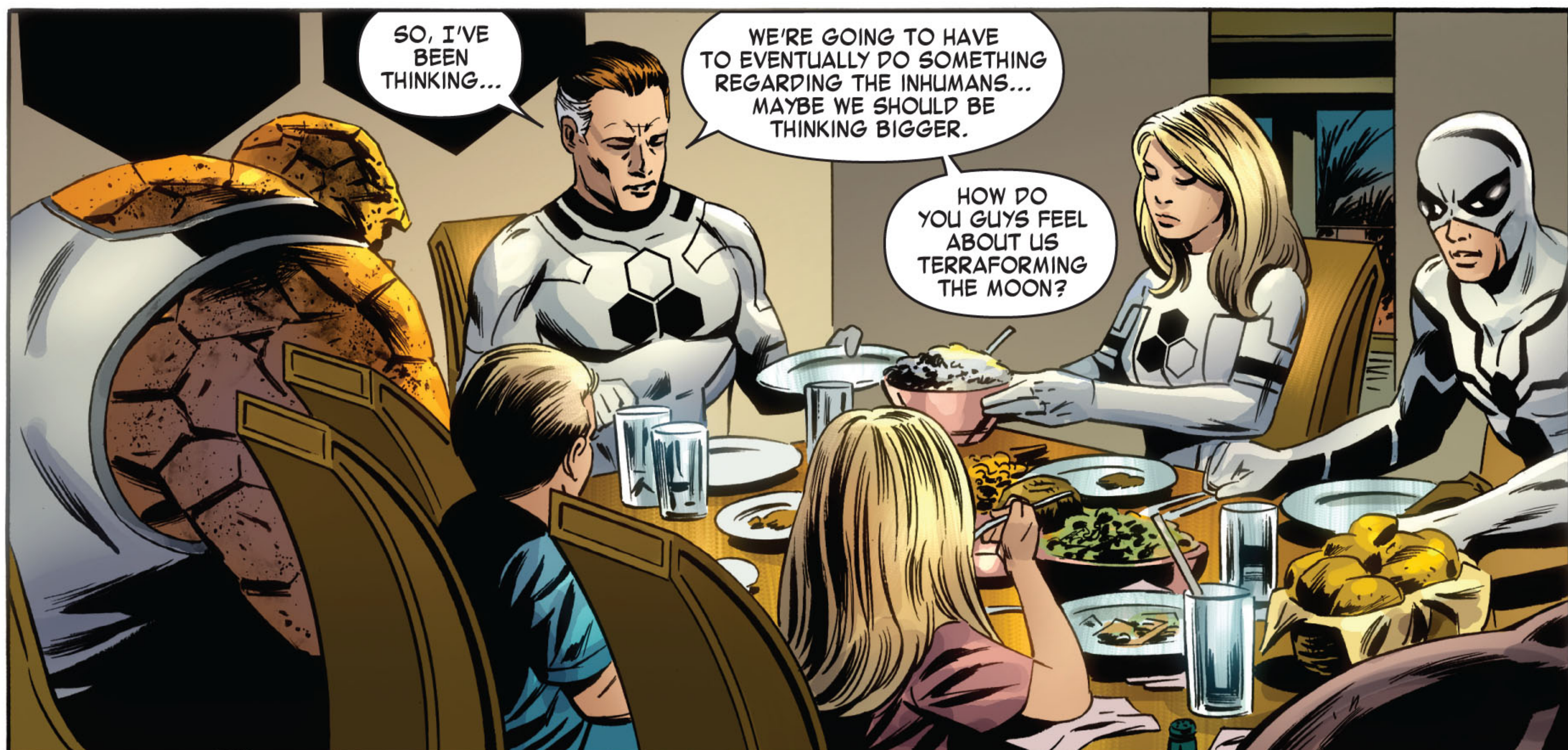
OH, RIGHT... OR MEPHISTO, THE DEVIL, OR SOME OTHER EVIL INCARNATE BEING...

HELL YES.

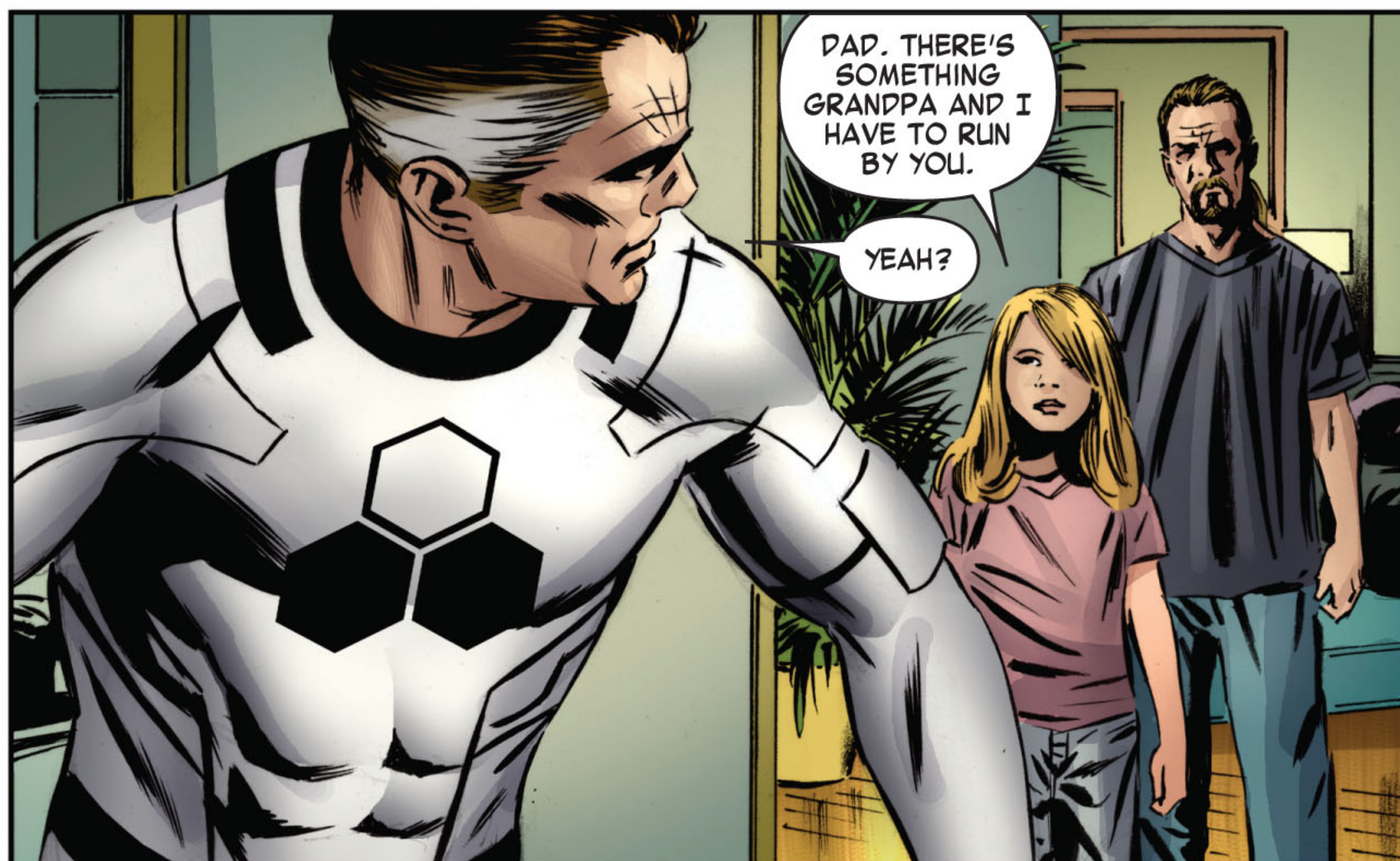


...WE THANK YOU FOR THIS WONDERFUL DINNER.

AMEN.









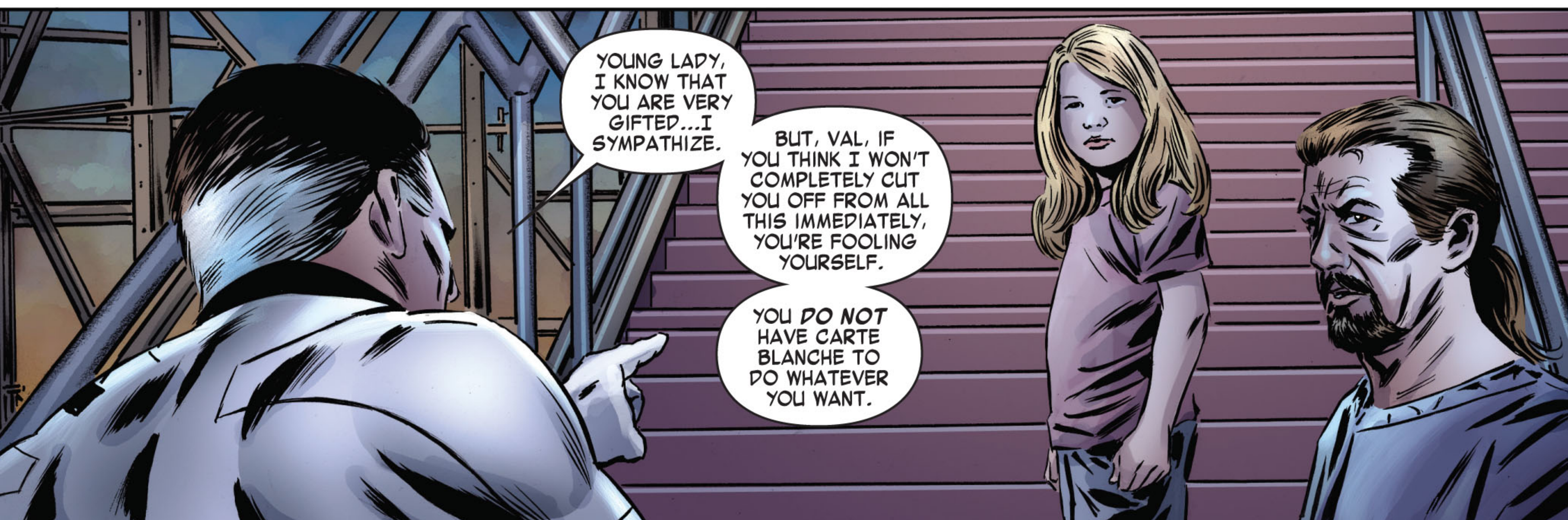
YOU DID WHAT!?!



WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

DON'T TELL ME THAT. HOW COULD YOU PROMISE--

IT'S WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO, DAD.



YOUNG LADY, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE VERY GIFTED...I SYMPATHIZE.

BUT, VAL, IF YOU THINK I WON'T COMPLETELY CUT YOU OFF FROM ALL THIS IMMEDIATELY, YOU'RE FOOLING YOURSELF.

YOU DO NOT HAVE CARTE BLANCHE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.



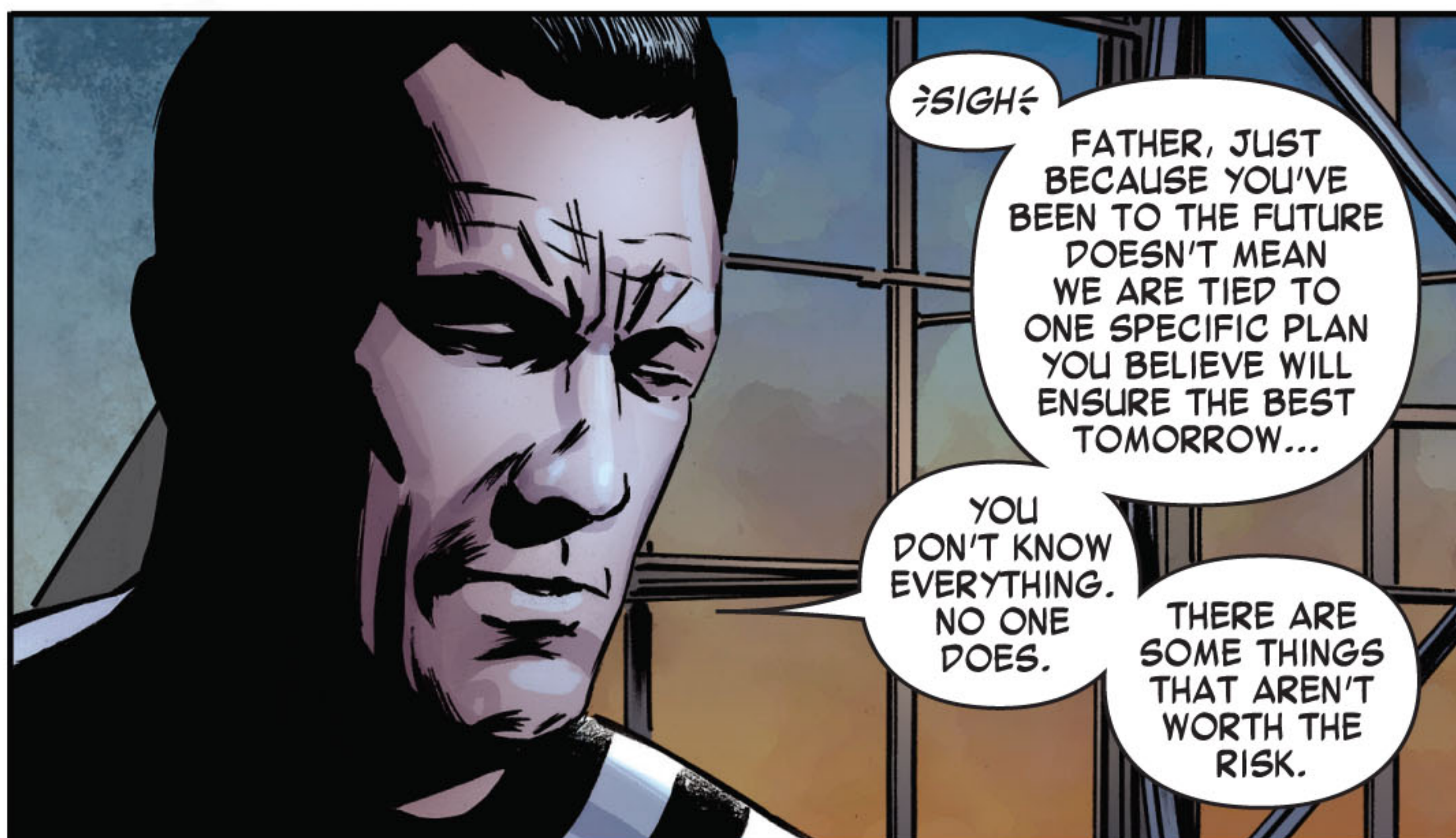
REED.

WHAT?



IT'S WHAT SHE'S SUPPOSED TO DO.

I KNOW IT.

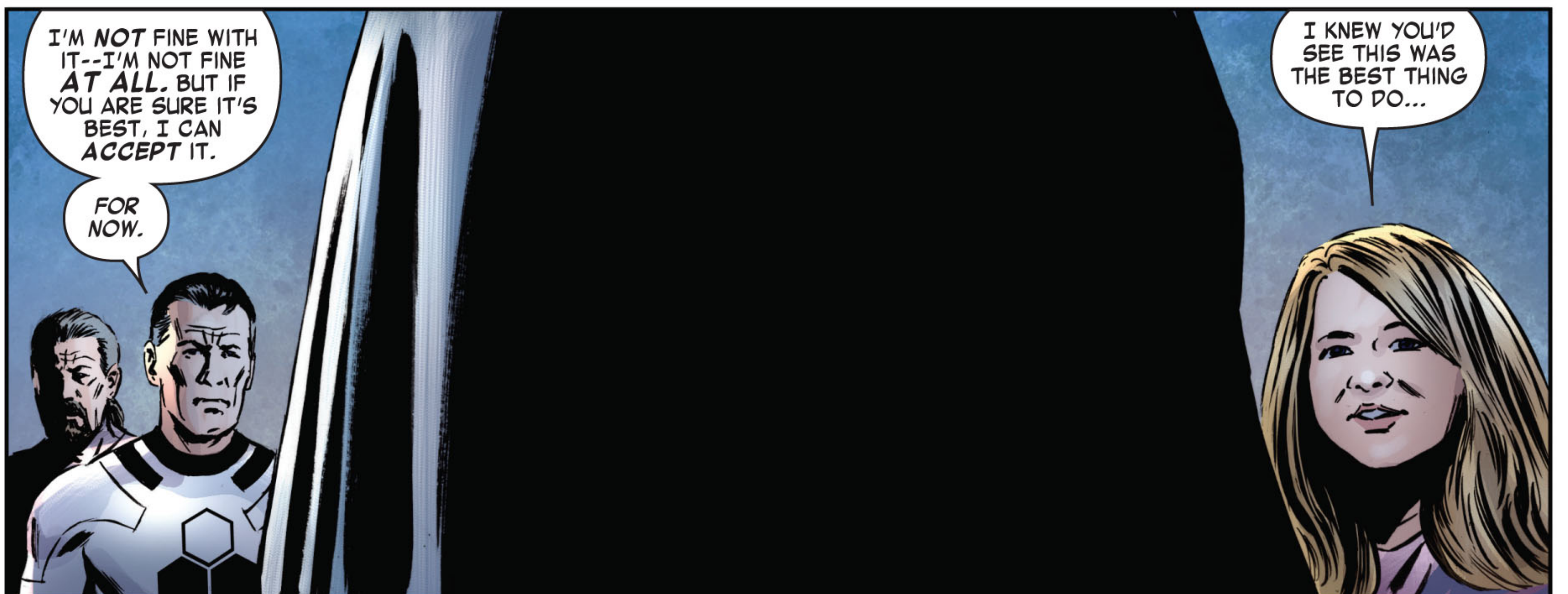
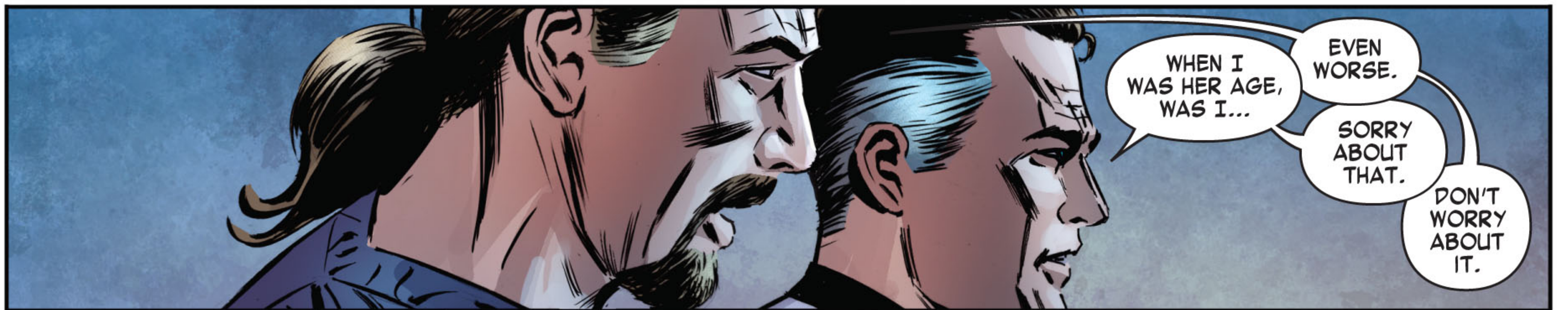
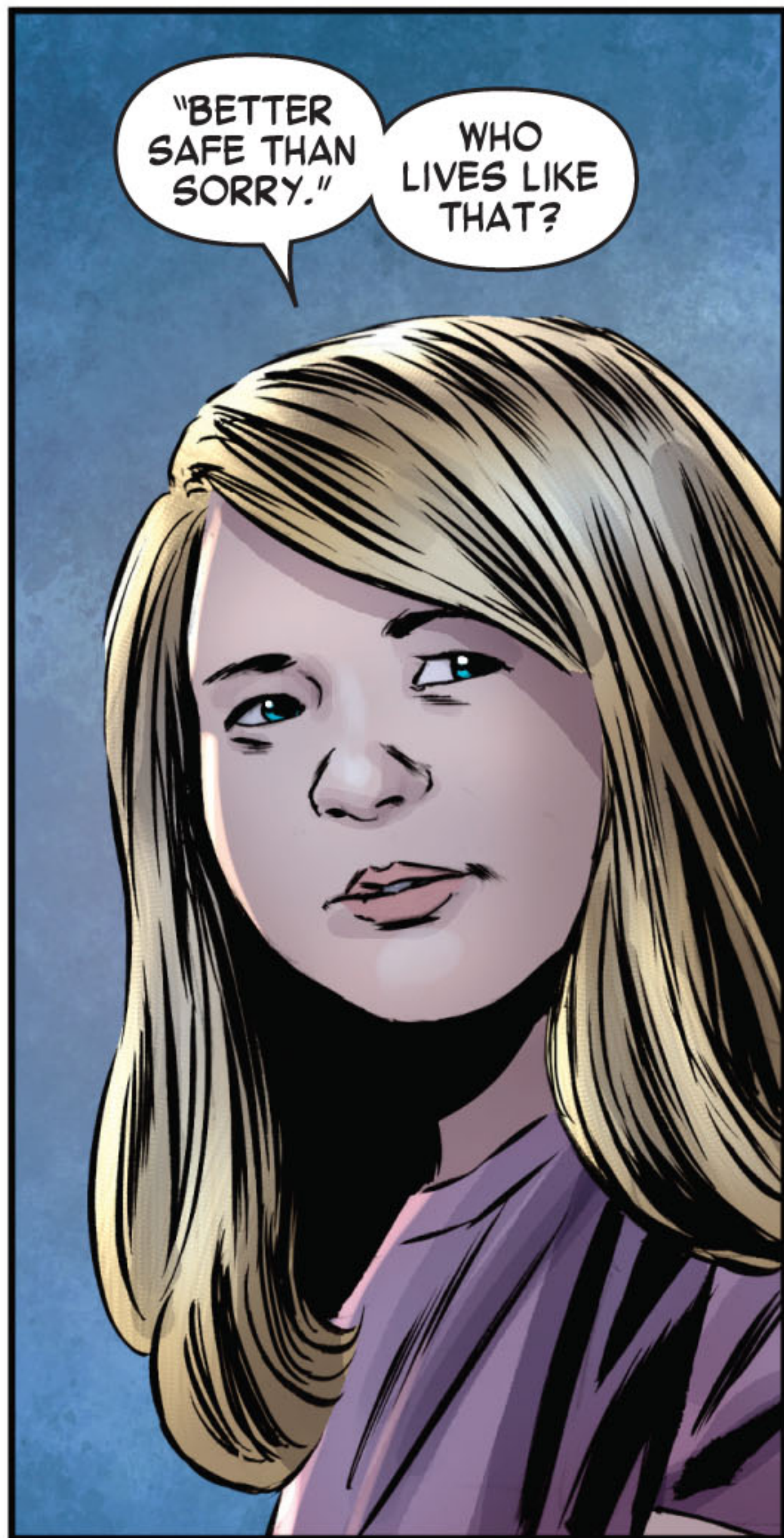


~SIGH~

FATHER, JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE DOESN'T MEAN WE ARE TIED TO ONE SPECIFIC PLAN YOU BELIEVE WILL ENSURE THE BEST TOMORROW...

YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING. NO ONE DOES.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT AREN'T WORTH THE RISK.





HEY...
HEAR THAT,
UNCLE
DOOM?

WELCOME
TO THE CLUB.



THE FIRST FAMILY



THE FUTURE FOUNDATION



	Name:	Description:
01.	Reed Richards	Mister Fantastic. The head of the family.
02.	Susan Richards	The Invisible Woman. Force-field projection. Sister to the fallen Johnny Storm.
03.	Ben Grimm	The Thing. Reed's best friend since college. A man trapped in a monster's body.
04.	Peter Parker	The Amazing Spider-Man. Super hero.
05.	Franklin Richards	The son of Reed and Susan. Will one day be the most powerful mutant on Earth.
06.	Valeria Richards	The daughter of Reed and Susan. Super-intellect.
07.	Nathaniel Richards	Reed's long-lost father now returned home. A time traveller, and the only Nathaniel remaining in the multiverse.
08.	Leech	The best friend and roommate of Franklin Richards. A mutant with the power to negate another mutant's power.
09.	Victor Von Doom	Doctor Doom. Super villain and long-time foe of the Fantastic Four.

	Name:	Description:
01.	Reed Richards	Mister Fantastic. Headmaster and creator of the Future Foundation.
04.	Peter Parker	The Spectacular Spider-Man. Super-scientist.
06.	Valeria Richards	The daughter of Reed and Susan. Trouble.
10.	Alex Power	Eldest of the Power clan known as Power Pack. Has the ability to control gravity.
11.	Bentley 23	A child clone of Bentley Wittman, the Wizard. Genius, and ward of Reed Richards.
12.	Dragon Man	An android brought to life by the villain Diablo, now reprogrammed for peace.
13.	Artie Maddicks	A problem-solver. Has the ability to holographically project his thoughts.
14.	Wu	Male co-heir to the UI-Uhari throne at the Peak. Ward of Susan Richards.
15.	Vii	Female co-heir to the UI-Uhari throne at the Peak. Ward of Susan Richards.
16.	Mik	The smartest Moloid survivor from the Forever City of the High Evolutionary.
17.	Korr	The youngest Moloid survivor from the Forever City of the High Evolutionary.
18.	Turg	The oldest Moloid survivor from the Forever City of the High Evolutionary.
19.	Tong	A floating head, former herald to long-term foe of the Fantastic Four, the Mole Man.

NEXT ISSUE:



DOOM NATION

HICKMAN • EPTING • MAGYAR • MOUNTS



TM

MARVEL

2

THE **HUMAN TORCH** IS DEAD. THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** IS NO MORE.
SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE NEW **FUTURE FOUNDATION**.
REED'S FATHER NATHANIEL RICHARDS HAS RETURNED HOME FROM THE TIMESTREAM.
DOCTOR DOOM HAS BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE TEAM AND THE FAMILY.



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



WU & VIL



MIK, KOR, & TURG



TONG



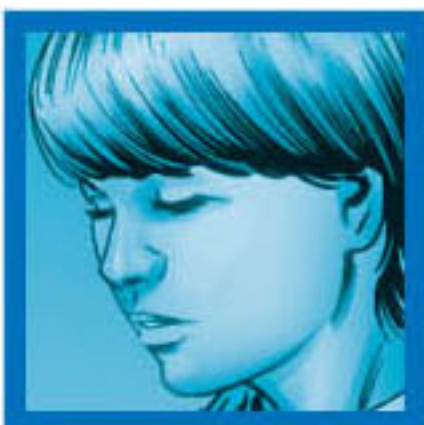
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

PENCILER: **STEVE EPTING**

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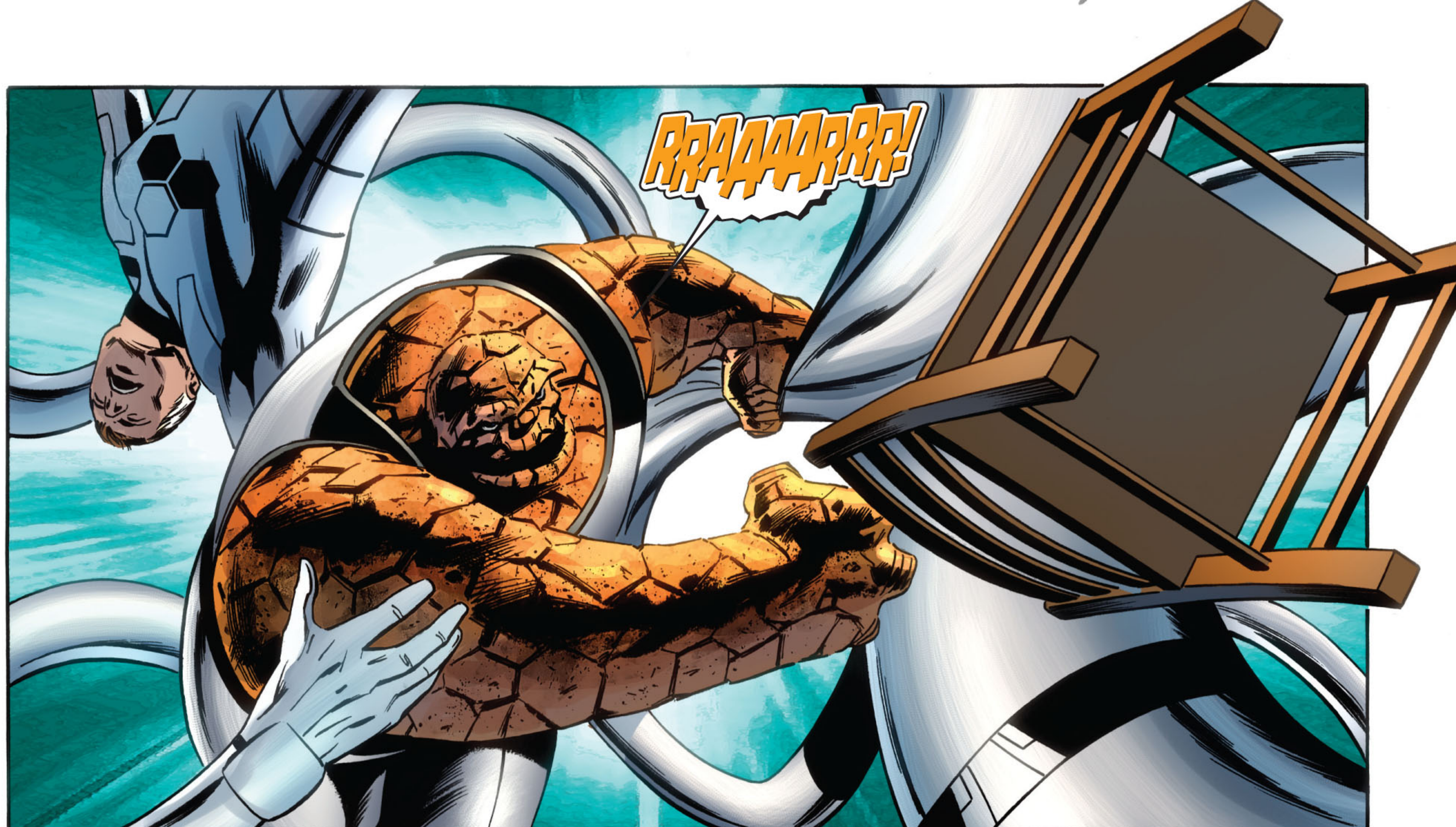
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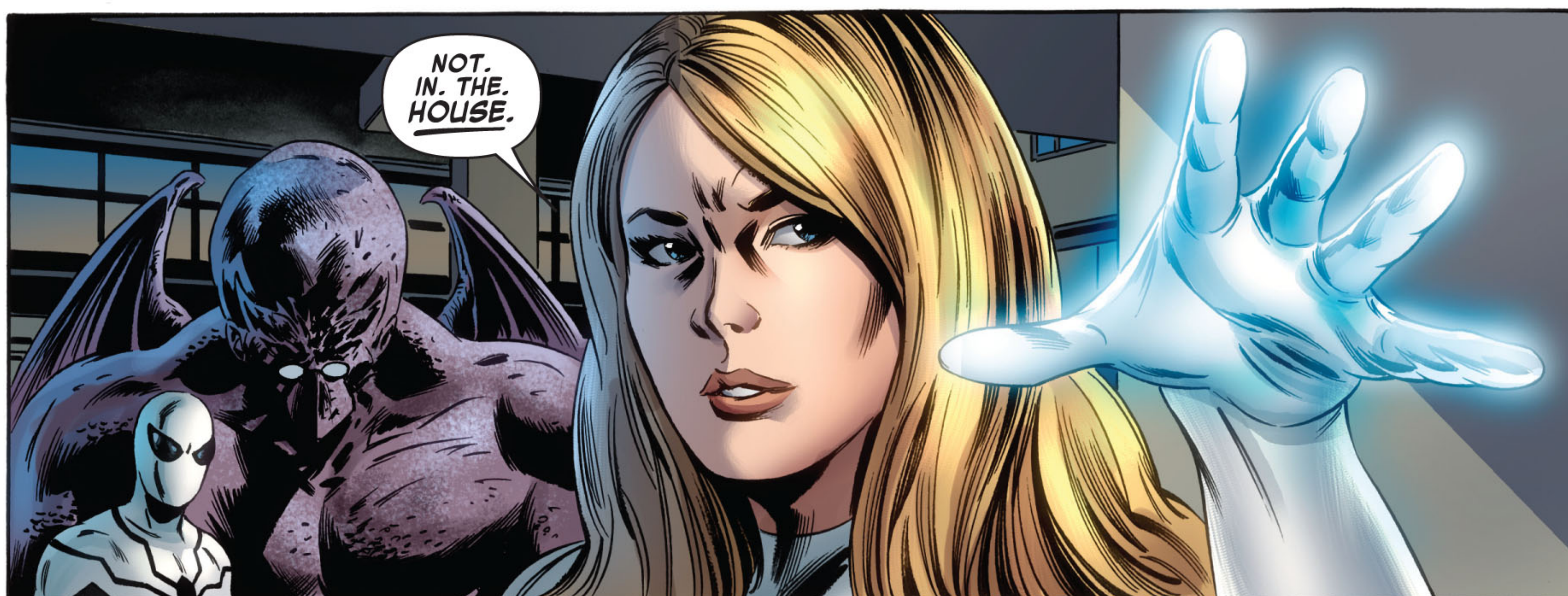
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE
ABDICATED: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY











THANK YOU,
DEAR.

UH-HUH.
SOMEONE WANT
TO EXPLAIN
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?

YOU WANNA
KNOW WHAT'S
GOIN' ON? I'LL
TELL YOU WHAT'S
GOIN' ON.

A CERTAIN
BAND OF
KNOW-IT-ALLS
HAS DECIDED
TO ASK UGLY
OVER THERE
TO JOIN THE
TEAM...

DOOM'S
MOVIN' IN,
SUSIE.

THAT'S
MY FAULT,
UNCLE
BEN...

THERE'S
SOMETHING THAT
I...WELL, ACTUALLY,
WE NEED UNCLE
DOOM TO DO.

CONSIDER
THAT NOW
MIGHT BE A
TIME WHEN IT
IS BEST TO
KEEP HIM
CLOSE,
BENJAMIN.

YEAH? WELL
CONSIDER THAT
NOW MAYBE I
DON'T WANNA
BE HERE.

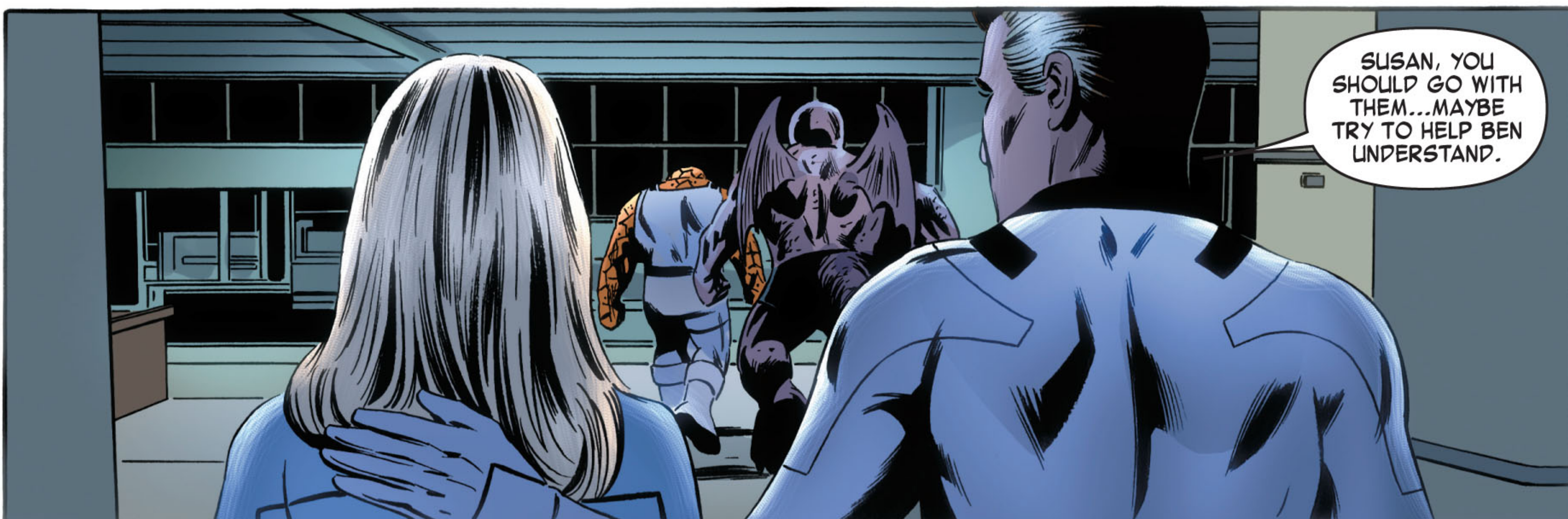
C'MON,
DRAGON--
YOU'RE
WITH ME.

OUR
DESTINATION?

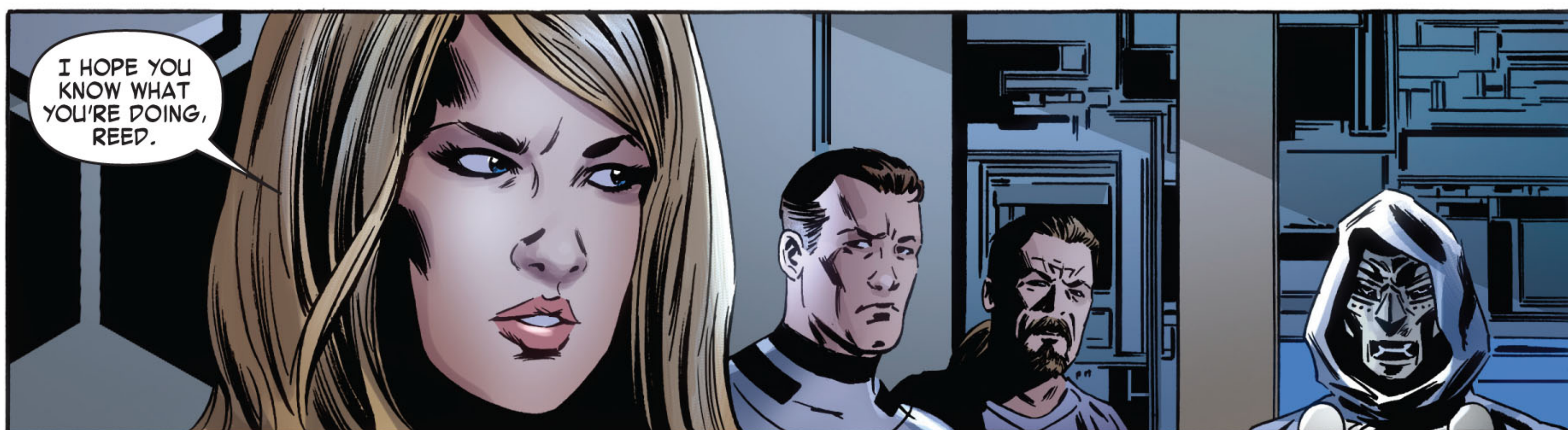
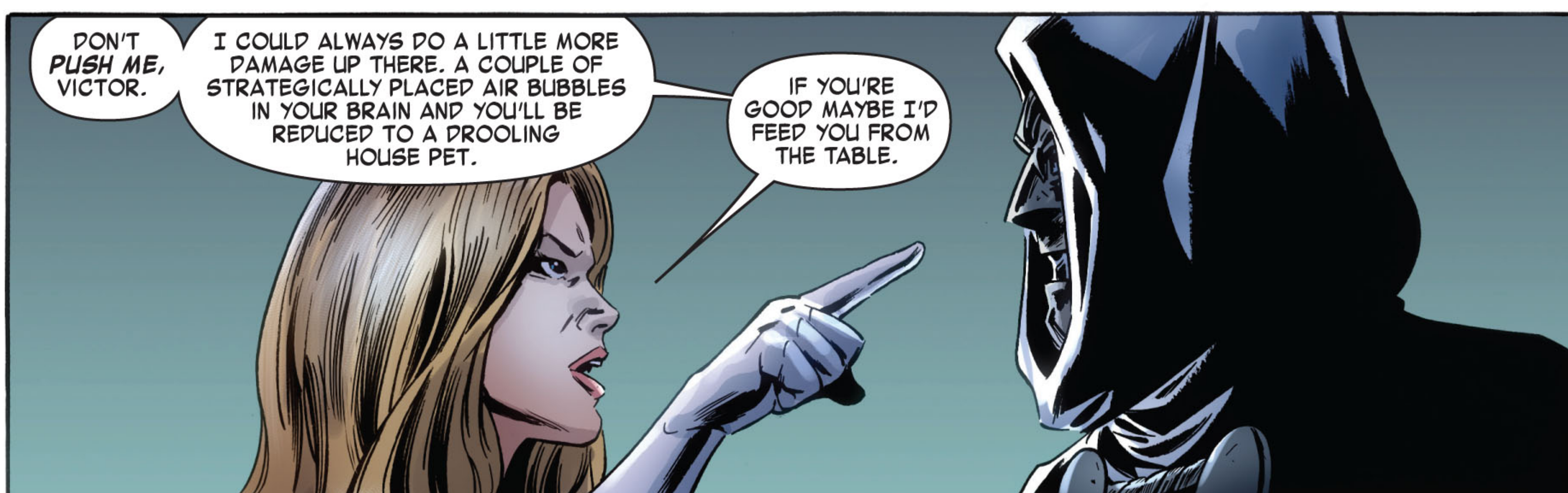
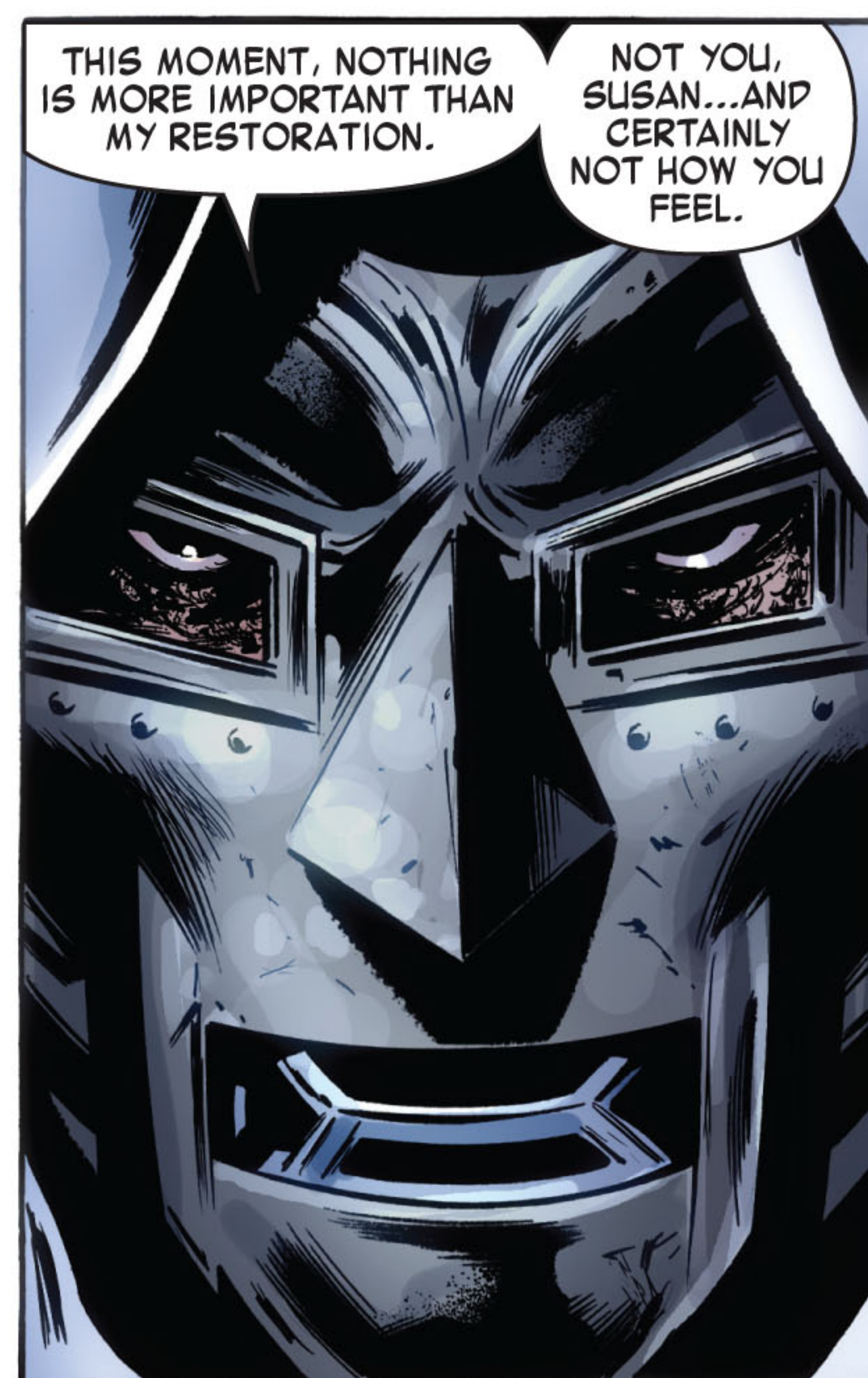
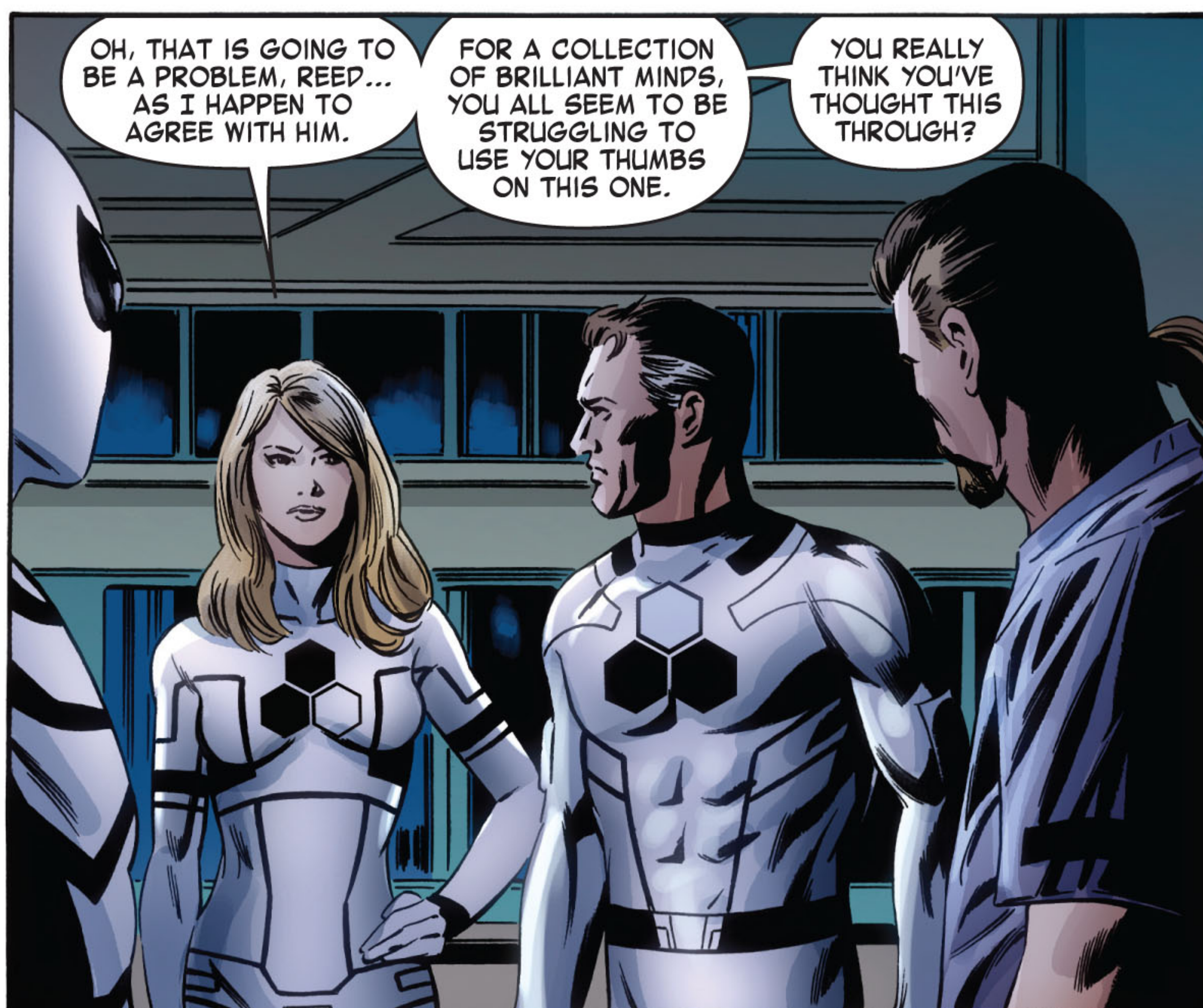
THE CLOSEST
BAR. AND THE
FIRST ONE'S
ON ME.

I'M AN ANDROID,
MR. GRIMM...I
DON'T DRINK.

FINE.
YOU BUY.



SUSAN, YOU
SHOULD GO WITH
THEM...MAYBE
TRY TO HELP BEN
UNDERSTAND.





ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO STAY HERE, SPIDER-MAN... WE CAN ALWAYS USE A FRESH PERSPECTIVE IN THE ROOM.

THE ROOM?
UH-HUH...



THE ROOM.
HAVE A SEAT, VICTOR.



OKAY, CLASS... THIS IS VICTOR VON DOOM. HE HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED MASSIVE BRAIN DAMAGE...

TODAY'S PROBLEM IS FOR US TO FIND A WAY TO RETURN THE SUBJECT TO HIS PREVIOUS STATE...

IMPERFECT AS IT WAS.



UHM, SHOULD WE EVEN BE DOING THIS... THAT'S DOCTOR DOOM, MAN!

YES, THE DOCTOR DOOM.
WE SHOULD TOTALLY BE DOING THIS.



EH... ETHICS ASIDE, DON'T YOU NEED TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A STRUCTURAL ISSUE-- ACTUAL PHYSICAL DAMAGE-- OR A DATA ISSUE...

YOU KNOW, IS THE BRAIN BIOLOGICALLY SOUND, BUT IT JUST NOW LACKS LARGE CHUNKS OF MISSING...

WHY IS EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?



UNEXPECTED. THE SPIDER-MAN ALSO POSSESSES A FORMIDABLE INTELLECT.

IMPRESSIVE.

I DON'T LIKE HIM.

I DON'T CARE. HIS QUESTION REMAINS VALID...

DO WE KNOW THE ANSWER?



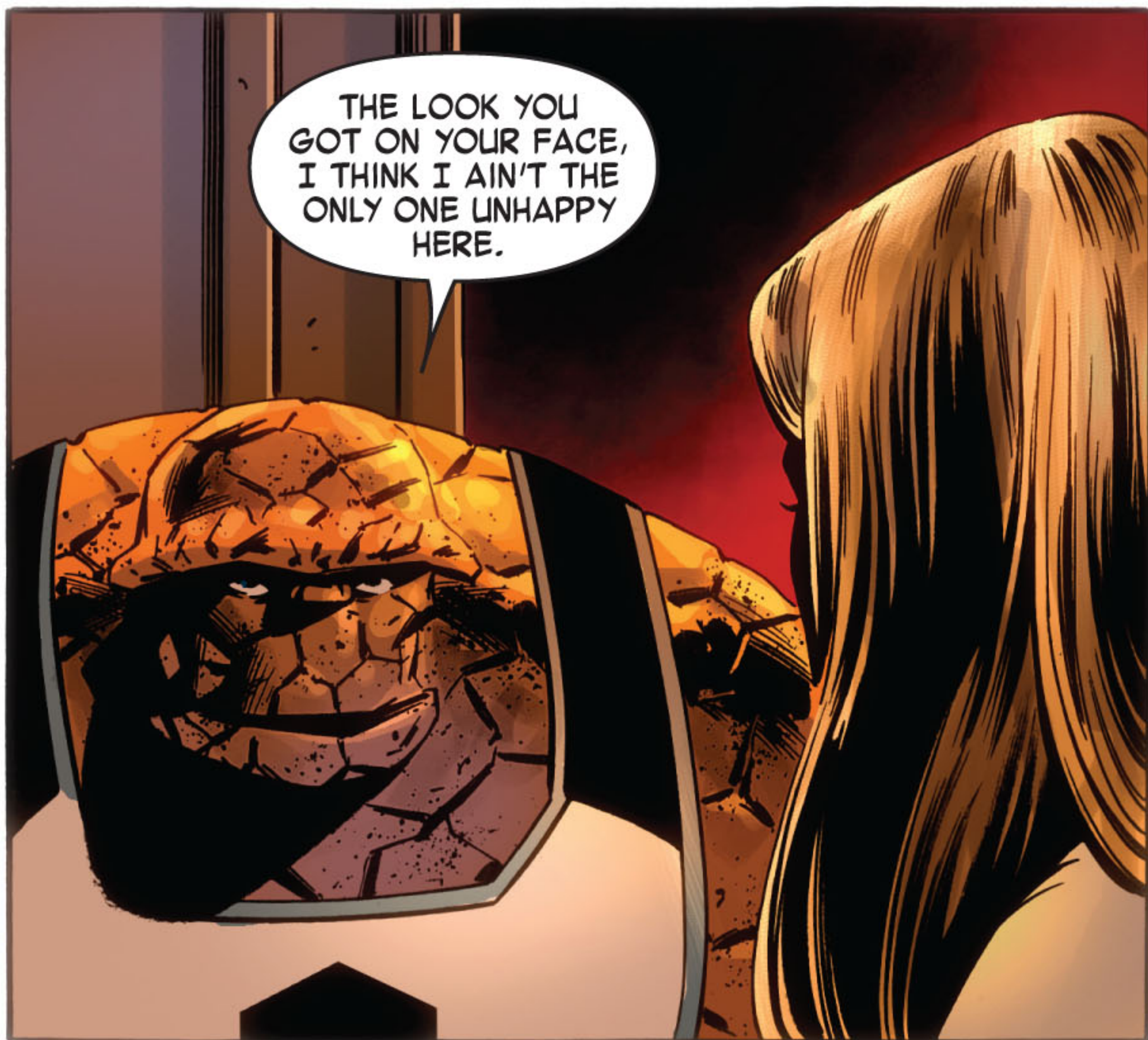
ACTUALLY, WE DO. VICTOR'S BRAIN APPEARS TO BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND.

WELL THEN, THIS SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD PROBLEM WITH A SIMPLE ANSWER.

THIS IS JUST A STANDARD DATA RETRIEVAL SCENARIO...









IT IS.

UNLESS I'M ATTACKED AND FORCED TO DEFEND MYSELF, OR DEFEND THOSE THAT I CARE ABOUT--TAKE OUR RECENT SITUATION REGARDING THE NEGATIVE ZONE, FOR EXAMPLE--I'VE REACHED A PLACE WHERE I NO LONGER SEE AGGRESSIVE PHYSICAL ACTION AS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO ANY PROBLEM.

UH... WHADDYA SAYIN' EXACTLY?



WELL, TO BE CLEAR, I'VE SWORN OFF VIOLENCE.

NO ONE'S EVER CHANGED THE WORLD BY HITTING SOMEONE, MR. GRIMM.



I THINK I NEED ANOTHER ONE.



I'M GETTIN' TIRED OF FEELIN' LIKE I'M SECOND FIDDLE TO A BUNCHA KNOW-IT-ALL EGGHEADS.

THERE'S NO DENYING OUR WORLD KEEPS CHANGING AROUND US, BEN.



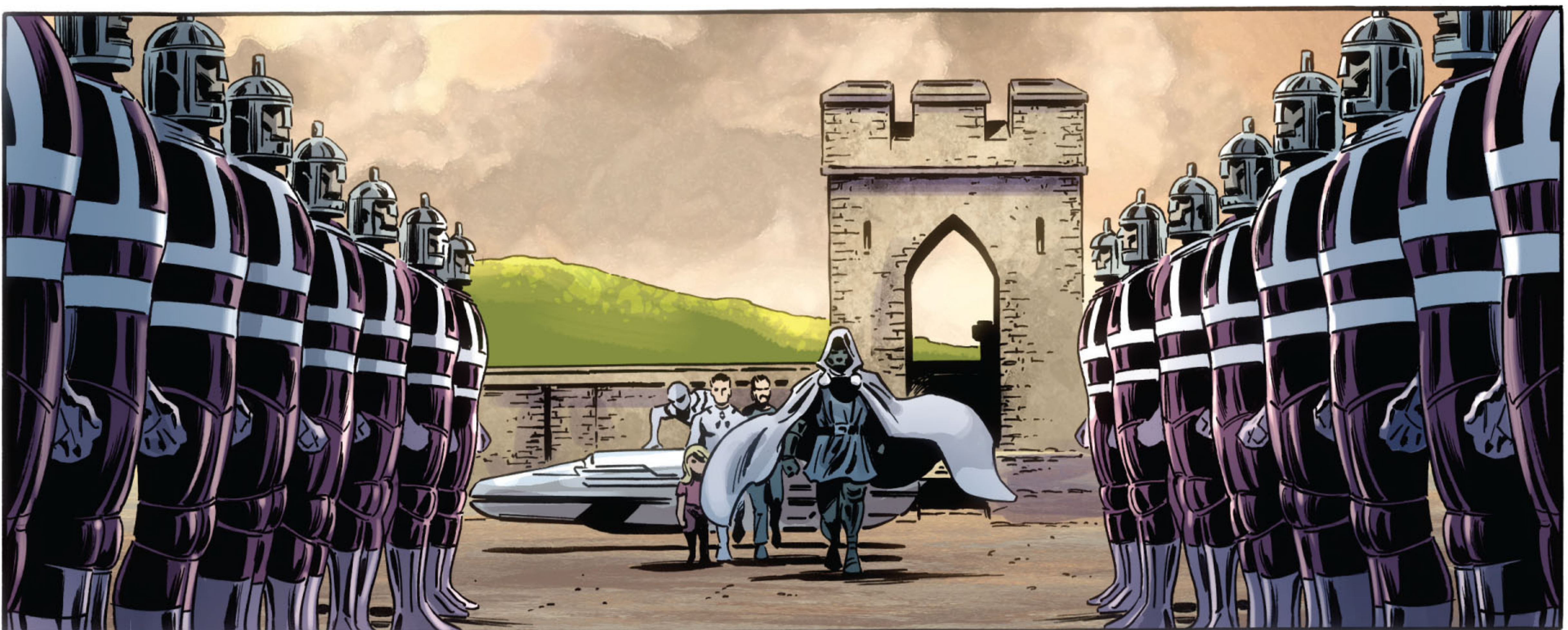
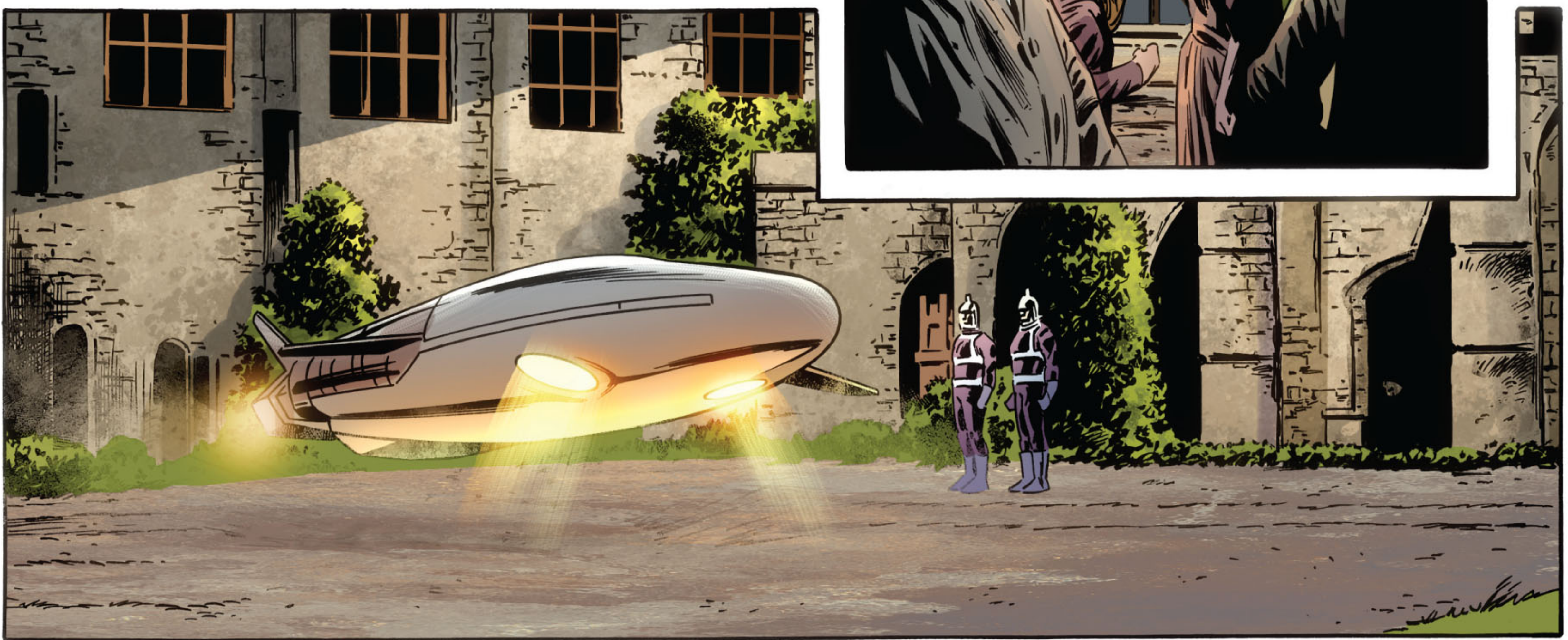
MAYBE BOTH OF US SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME FIGURING OUT OUR PLACES IN IT.



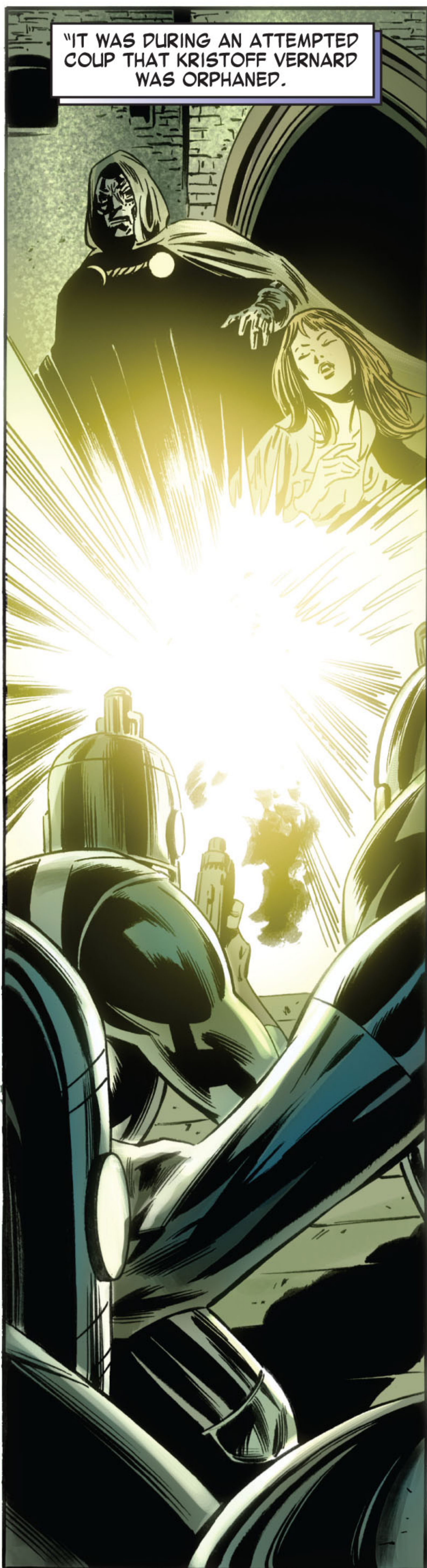
SUSIE, I SWEAR...

RIGHT NOW, I DON'T THINK EITHER ONE OF US HAS ANY IDEA WHERE THAT IS.

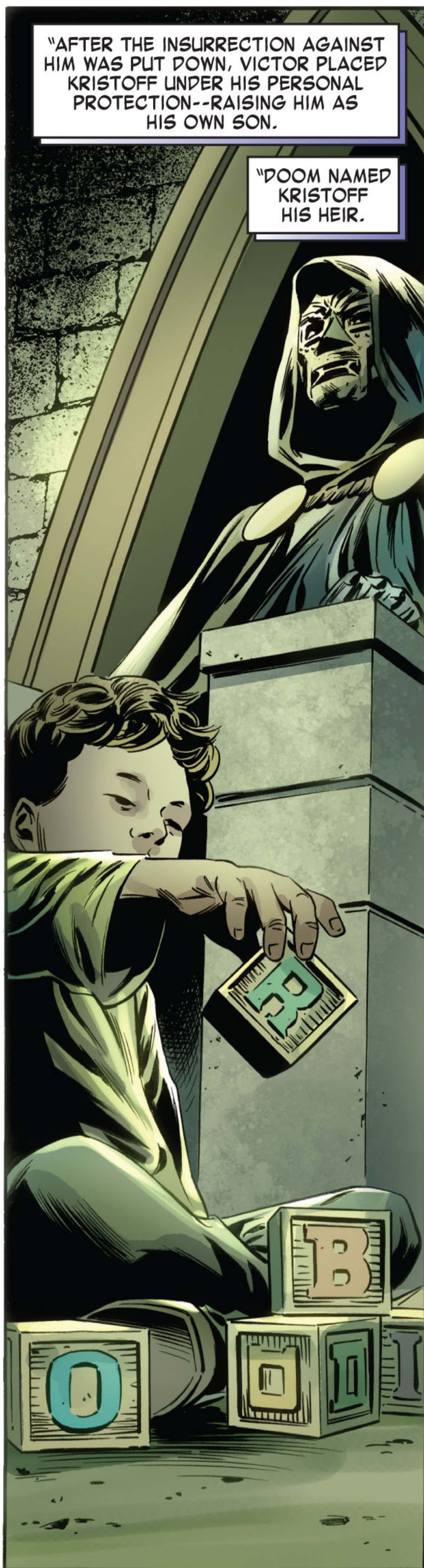
 **LATVERIA.**
THE NEXT DAY.





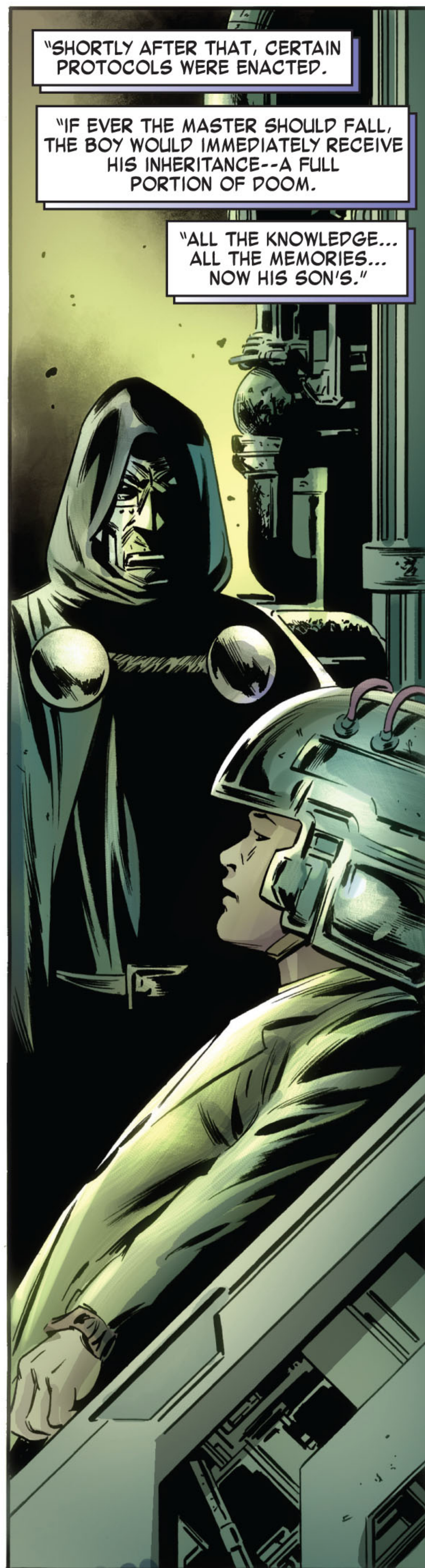


"IT WAS DURING AN ATTEMPTED COUP THAT KRISTOFF VERNARD WAS ORPHANED.



"AFTER THE INSURRECTION AGAINST HIM WAS PUT DOWN, VICTOR PLACED KRISTOFF UNDER HIS PERSONAL PROTECTION--RAISING HIM AS HIS OWN SON.

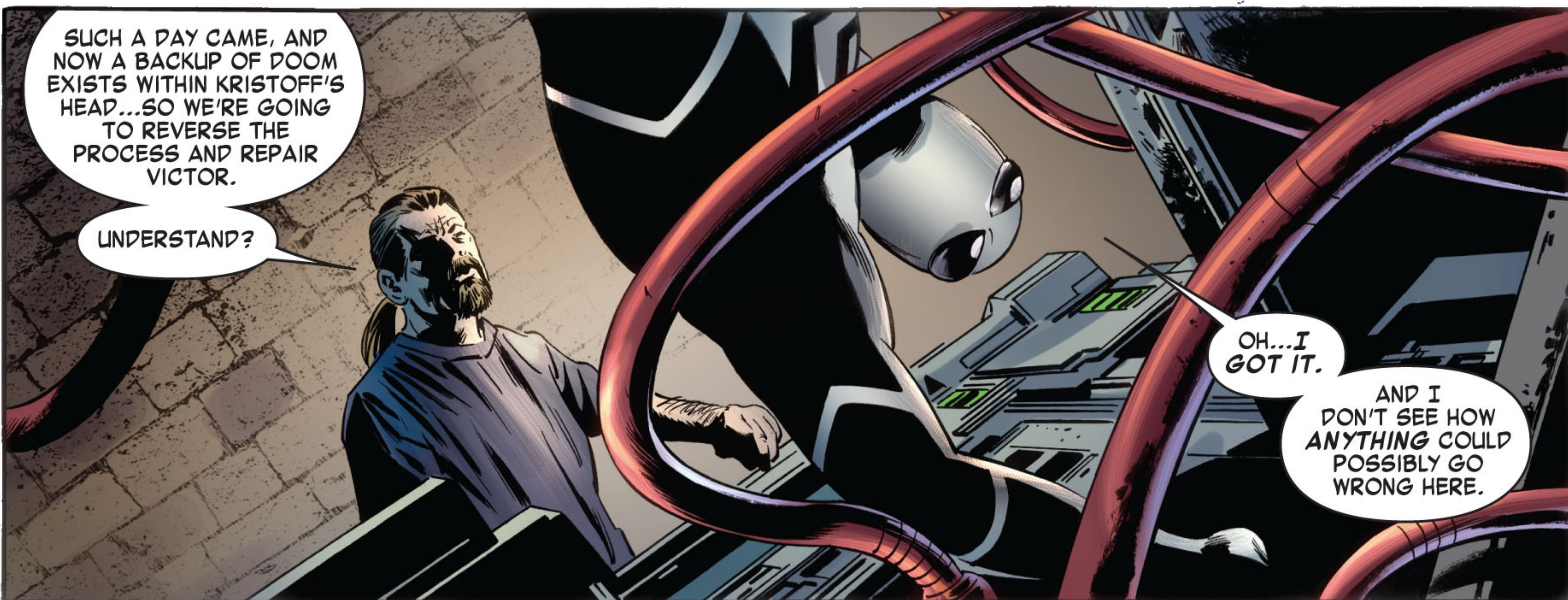
"DOOM NAMED KRISTOFF HIS HEIR.



"SHORTLY AFTER THAT, CERTAIN PROTOCOLS WERE ENACTED.

"IF EVER THE MASTER SHOULD FALL, THE BOY WOULD IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE HIS INHERITANCE--A FULL PORTION OF DOOM.

"ALL THE KNOWLEDGE... ALL THE MEMORIES... NOW HIS SON'S."



SUCH A DAY CAME, AND NOW A BACKUP OF DOOM EXISTS WITHIN KRISTOFF'S HEAD...SO WE'RE GOING TO REVERSE THE PROCESS AND REPAIR VICTOR.

UNDERSTAND?

OH...I GOT IT.

AND I DON'T SEE HOW ANYTHING COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG HERE.



SIRE, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION?

IT IS ALL WE HAVE, KRISTOFF.

FATHER...NO ONE WANTS YOU WHOLE MORE THAN I...BUT THIS TIME WE WILL BE OVERWRITING YOU WITH ME.

I HAVE NOT BEEN PERFECT.

I HAVE FAILED MANY TIMES.

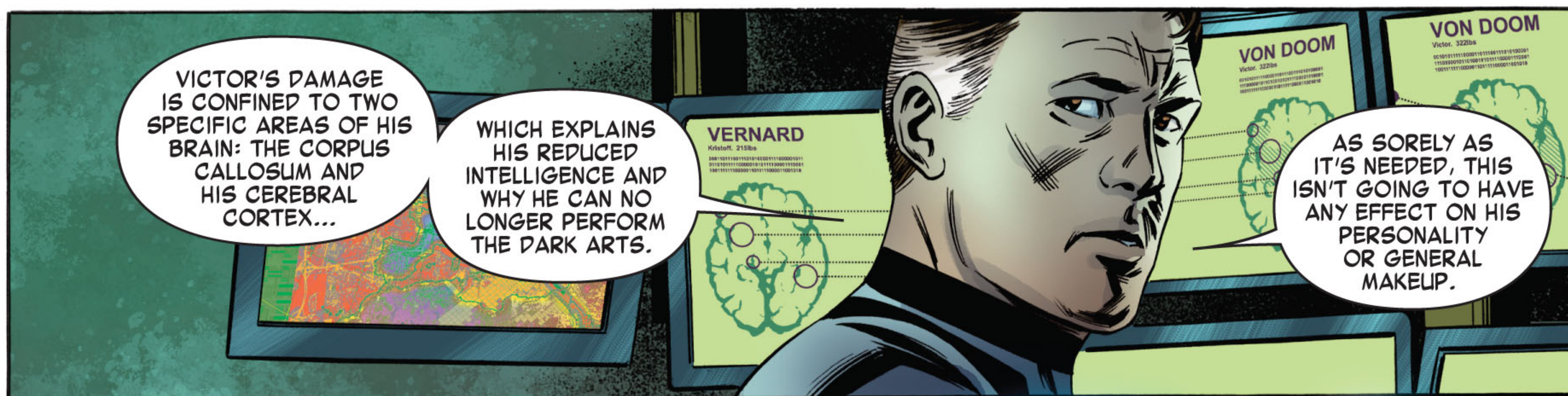


I AM NO DOOM.



HEY! DON'T WORRY, MISTER KRISTOFF.

WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO COPY OVER EVERYTHING...JUST THE PARTS THAT NEED FIXING.



VICTOR'S DAMAGE IS CONFINED TO TWO SPECIFIC AREAS OF HIS BRAIN: THE CORPUS CALLOSUM AND HIS CEREBRAL CORTEX...

WHICH EXPLAINS HIS REDUCED INTELLIGENCE AND WHY HE CAN NO LONGER PERFORM THE DARK ARTS.

VERNARD

Kristoff: 215ba

VON DOOM

Victor: 322ba

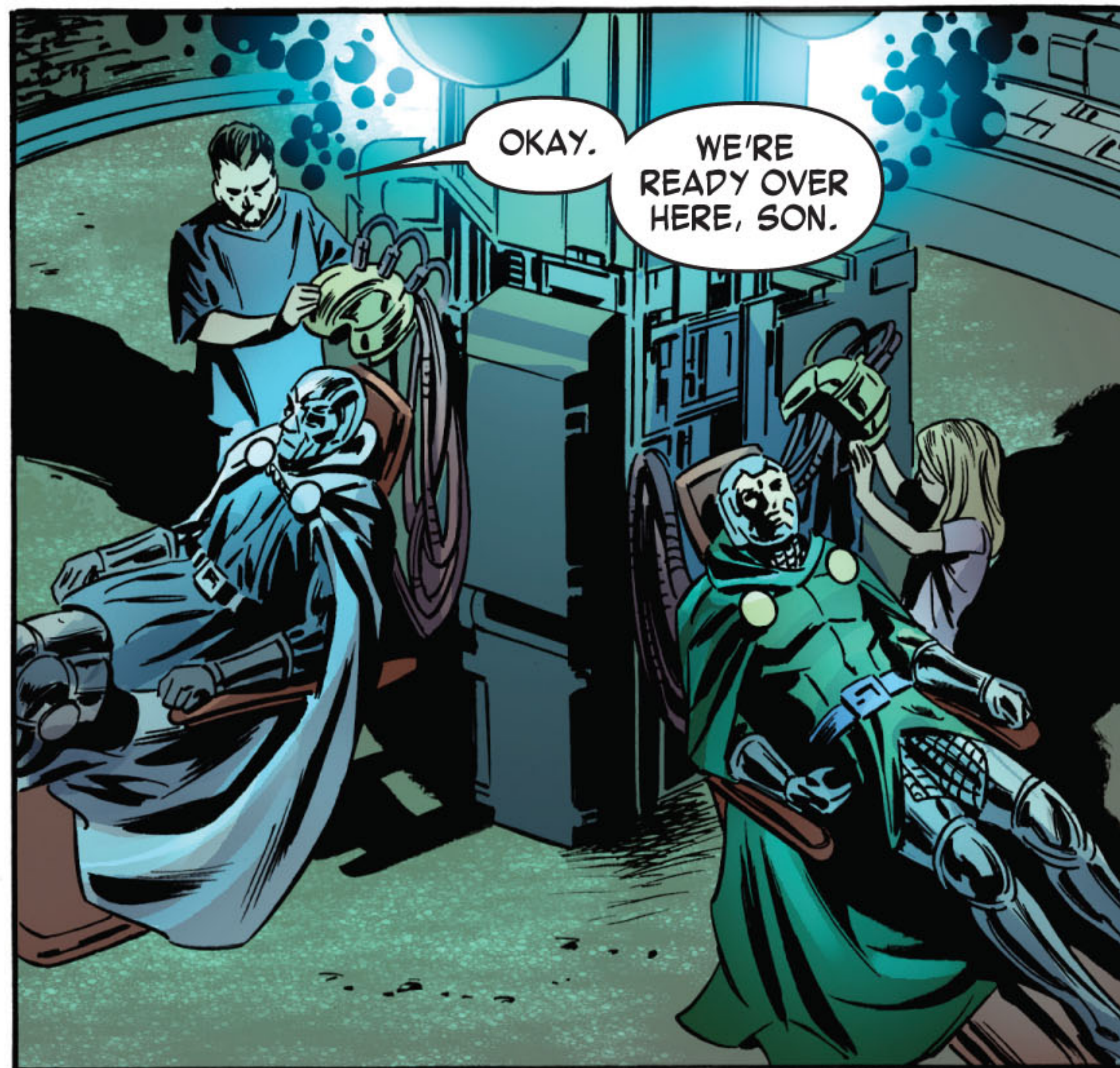
AS SORELY AS IT'S NEEDED, THIS ISN'T GOING TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON HIS PERSONALITY OR GENERAL MAKEUP.



SOON, ALL WILL BE RIGHT.

EXACTLY...

NOW HAVE A SEAT!



OKAY.

WE'RE READY OVER HERE, SON.



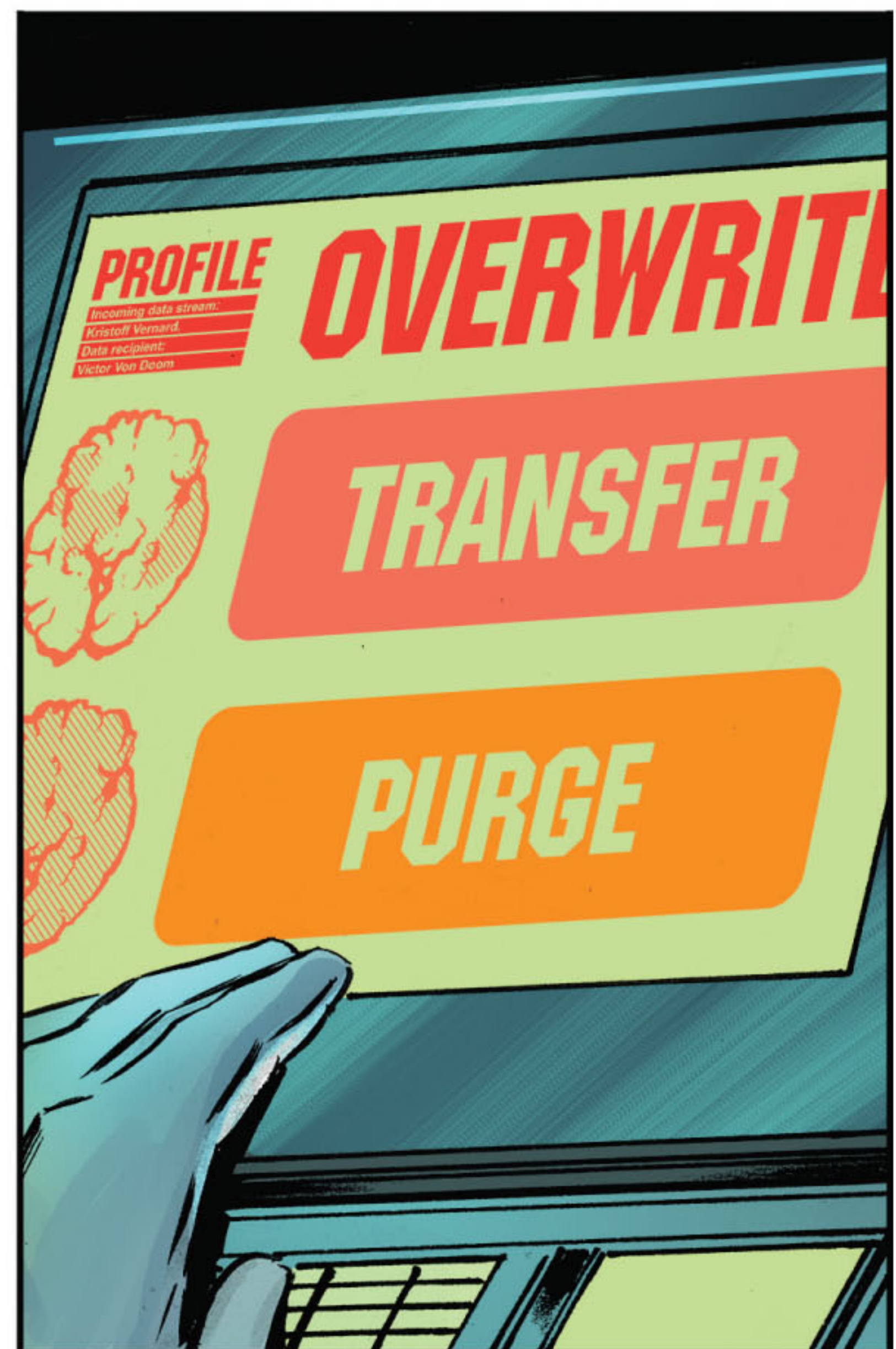
ALL RIGHT,
EVERYTHING
LOOKS FINE
OVER HERE
AS WELL.

DAD, YOU
AND VAL POWER
US UP AND THEN
INITIATE THE
TRANSFER.

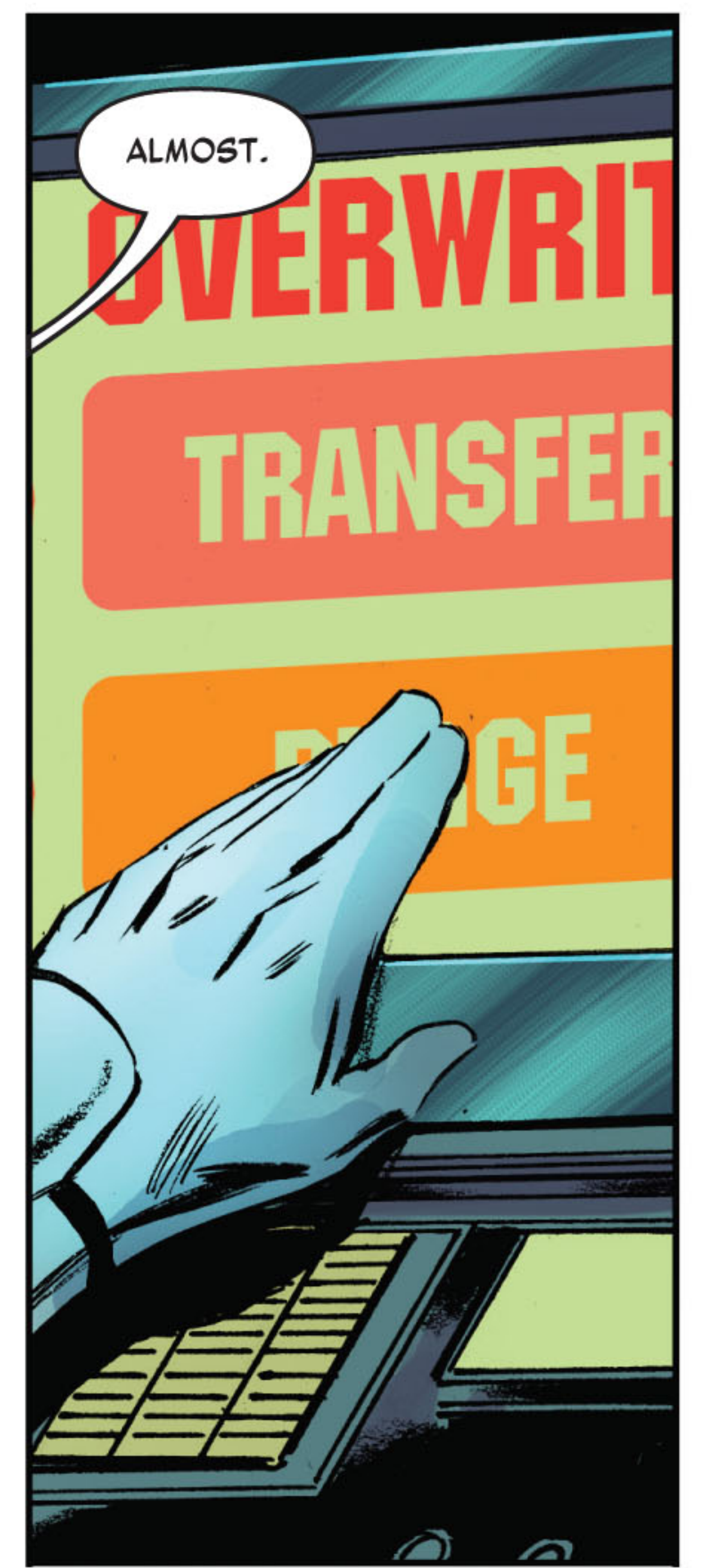
I'LL HANDLE
COORDINATING
THE OVERWRITE.



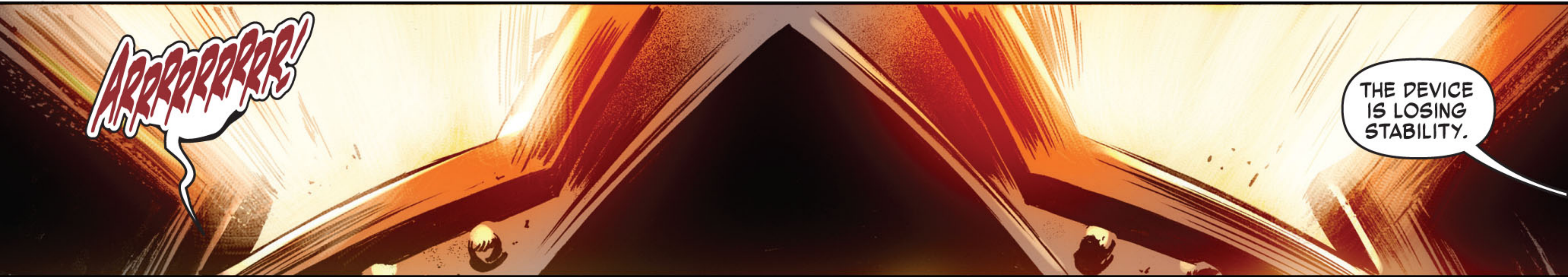
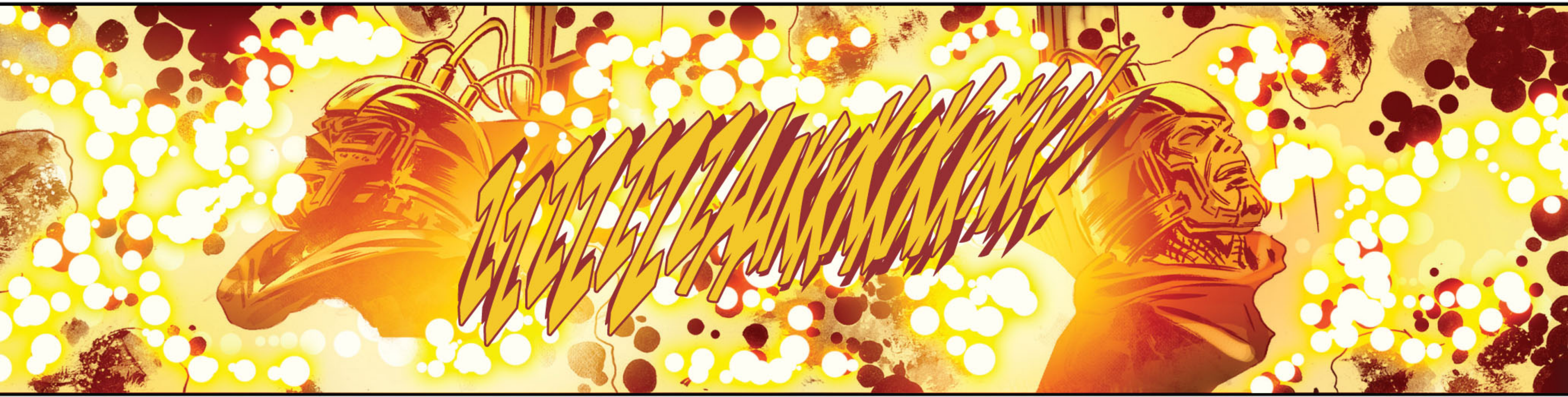
OKAY...
WE'RE
POWERING
ON.



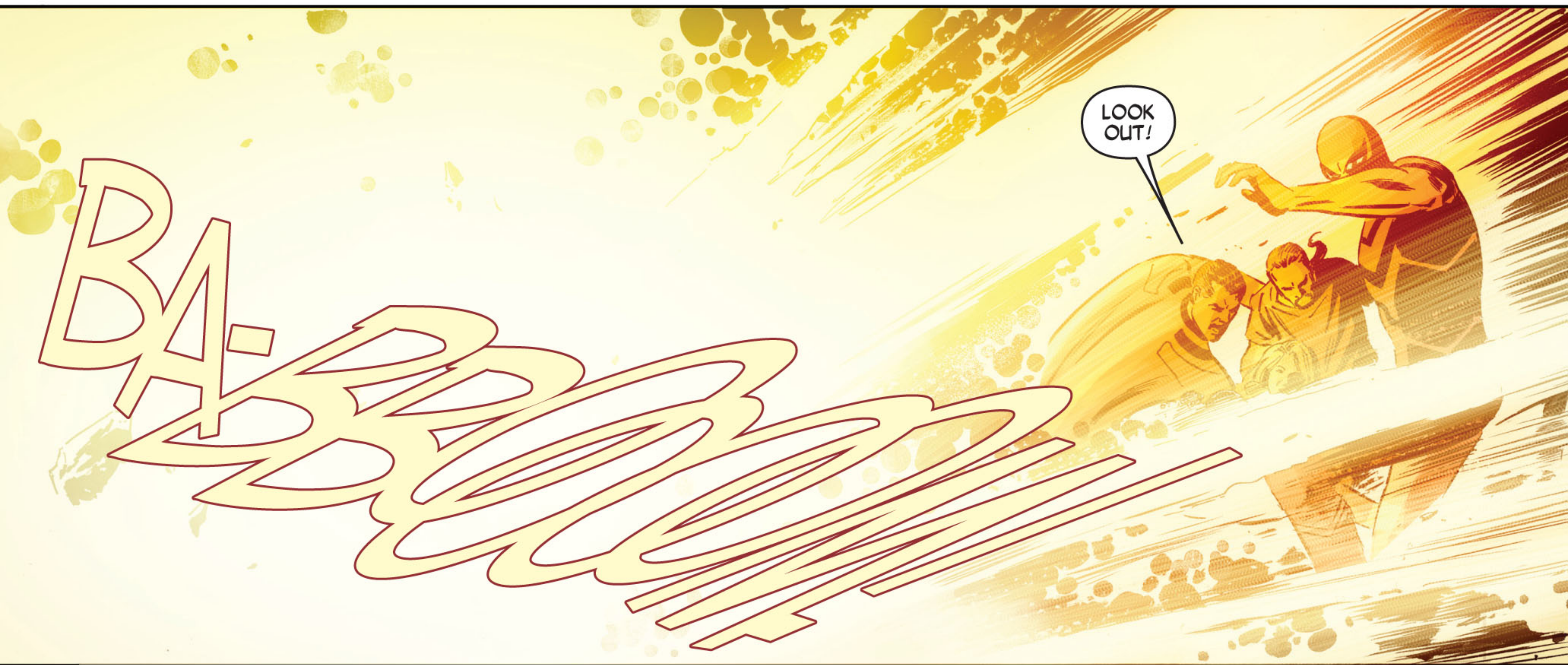
DAD! ARE
WE THERE
YET?



ALMOST.



THE DEVICE IS LOSING STABILITY.





FIRES
RELIT, **SCIENCE**
AND **MAGIC**
REKINDLED...

THE CHAINS
OF MERE
MORTALITY
BROKEN...



FATHER...
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

DID IT
WORK?



DOOM
IS...

REBORN!



WONDERFUL
NEWS THEN...

WE MUST
SUMMON THE
PEOPLE, I WILL
RELINQUISH
YOUR THRONE
IMMEDIATELY.

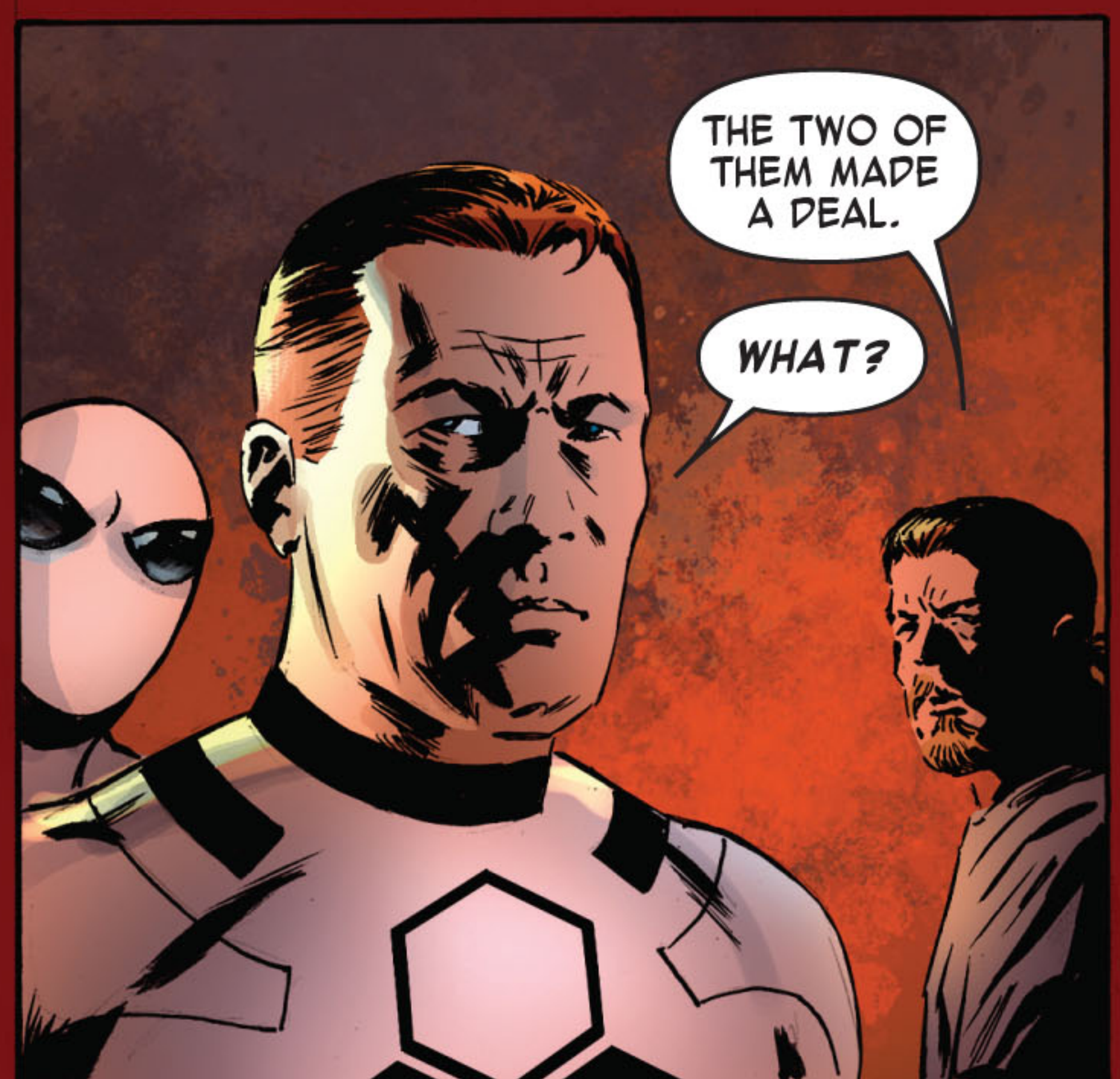
NO...NOW
IS NOT THE
TIME.



I MADE A
PROMISE
TO YOUNG
VALERIA.

AND SHE
HAS CERTAINLY
FULFILLED HER
END OF THE
BARGAIN.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT,
VICTOR?



THE TWO OF
THEM MADE
A DEAL.

WHAT?



WE MADE
A DEAL,
DADDY.

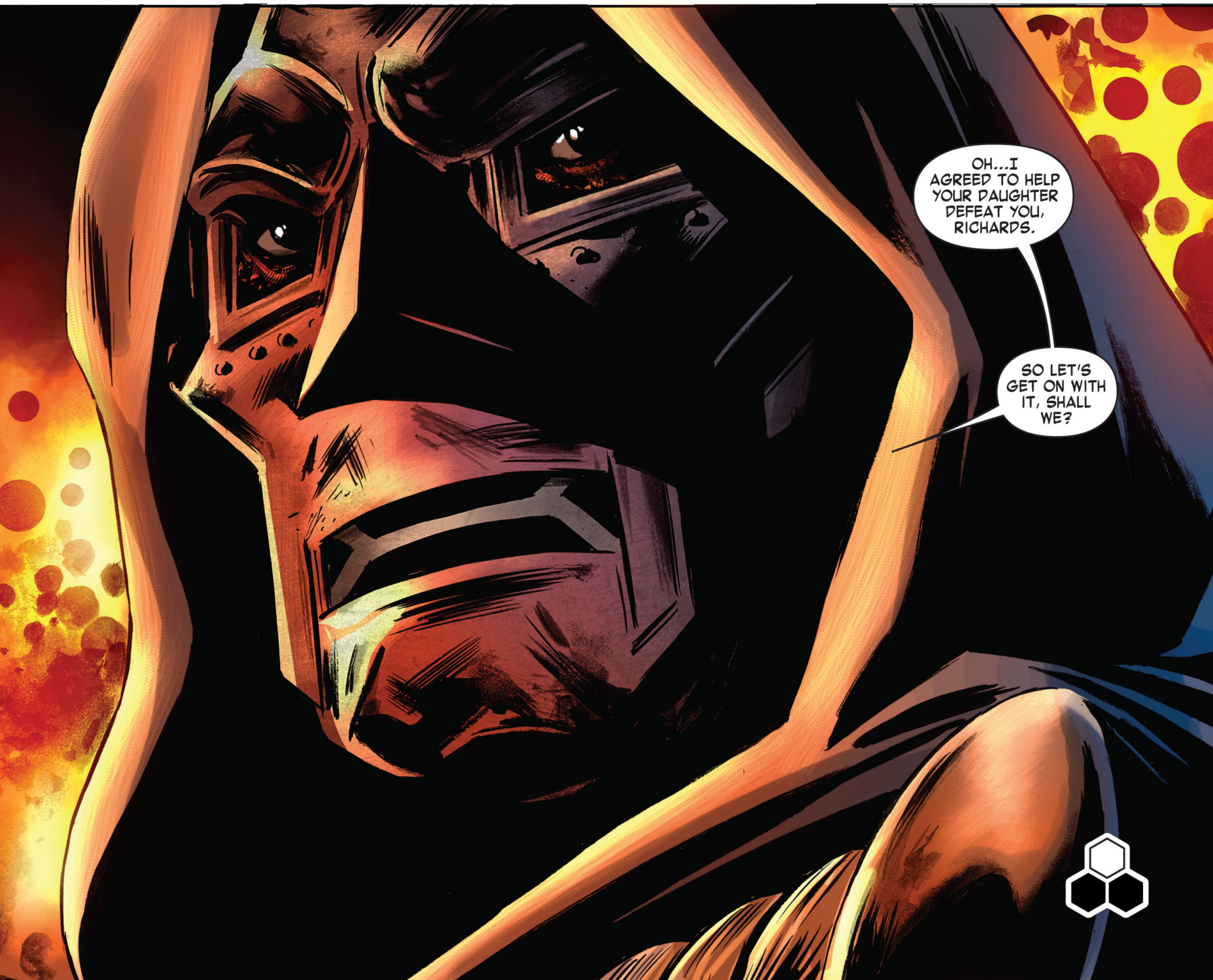
WE
SHOOK
ON IT.

YES.

AND WHILE I NOW
SUSPECT THAT SHE
HAD ALREADY FIGURED
OUT A SOLUTION
BEFOREHAND, THE
SHREWD CHILD DID, IN
FACT, RESTORE ME...
AND NOW I MUST
DO MY PART.



AND WHAT
PART IS THAT,
VICTOR?



OH...I
AGREED TO HELP
YOUR DAUGHTER
DEFEAT YOU,
RICHARDS.

SO LET'S
GET ON WITH
IT, SHALL
WE?



NEXT ISSUE:



RETURN OF THE REEDS

HICKMAN • EPTING • MAGYAR • MOUNTS



TM

MARVEL

3

2011
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REED RICHARDS TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL OF REEDS. VAL FOUND REED'S BRIDGE DEVICE, AND INADVERTENTLY RELEASED FOUR OF THE REEDS INTO OUR UNIVERSE. VAL ENLISTED THE AID OF DOCTOR DOOM IN RETURN FOR RESTORING DOOM'S INTELLECT. A WORLD-ALTERING WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES HAS BEEN FORETOLD BY A VAL FROM THE FUTURE.

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ALL THOSE REEDS?"



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



WU & VIL



MIK, KOR, & TURG



TONG



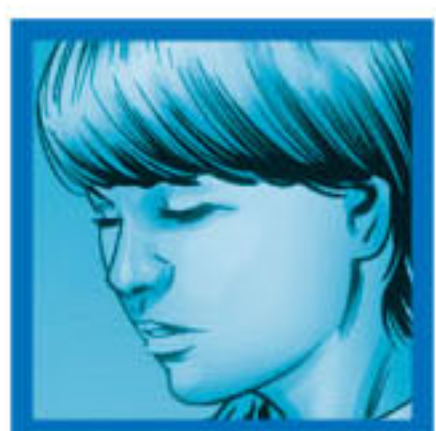
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

PENCILER: **STEVE EPTING**

INKERS: **RICK MAGYAR, BUTCH GUICE and
STEVE EPTING**

COLOR ARTIST: **PAUL MOUNTS**

LETTERER: **VC's CLAYTON COWLES**

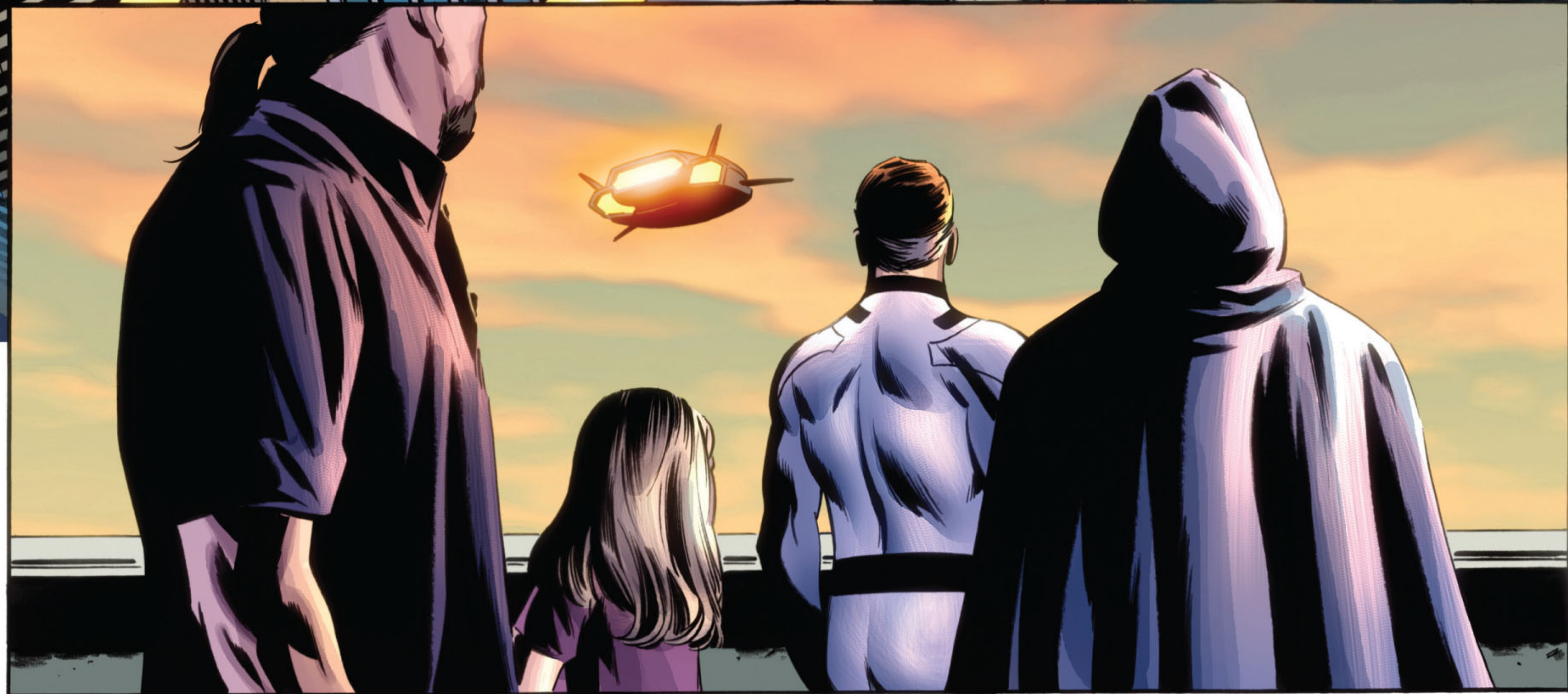
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE
ALWAYS HAPPENING: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

 THE BAXTER BUILDING.





**THE VESSEL OF THE WORLD BUILDER.
THE HOME OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.
SUMMONED BACK TO EARTH BY THE
ACTIVATION OF THE ASCENSION ENGINE.**



FASCINATING...



I HAVE TO
ADMIT, I'M USED
TO UNPREDICTABLE
SUCCESS SPRINGING
FROM UNINTENDED
CONSEQUENCES,
BUT THIS...

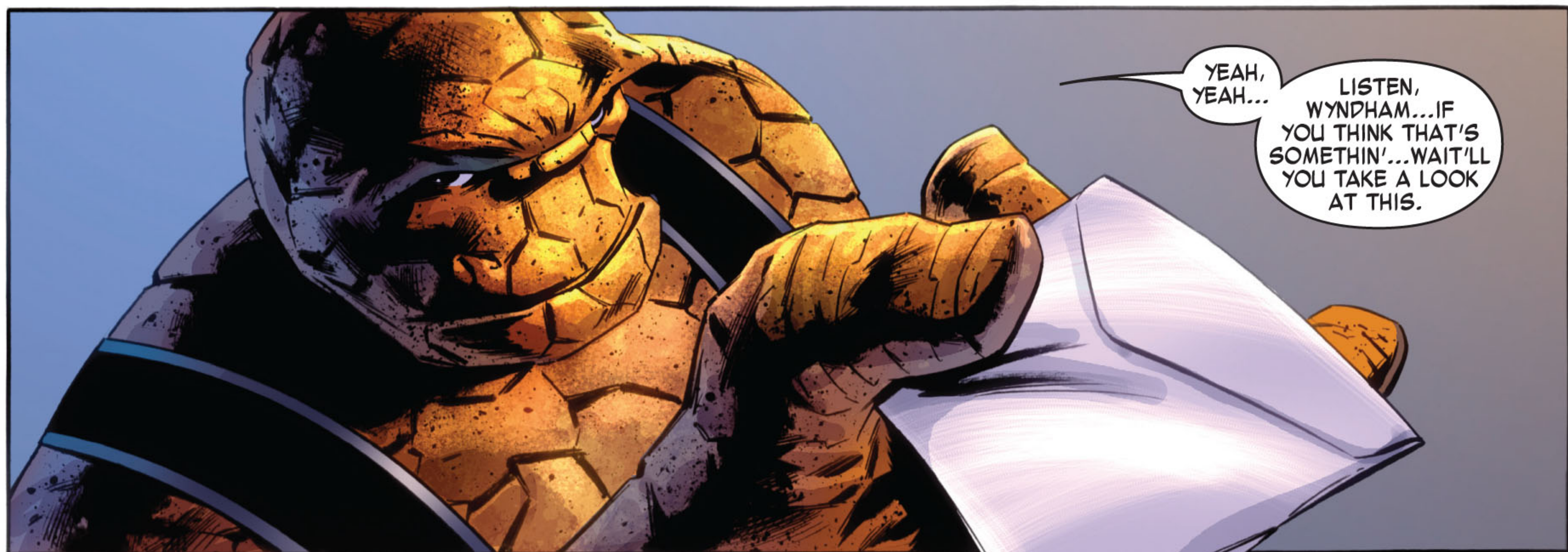
THIS IS
SOMETHING...
WONDERFUL.

BEHOLD!
THE MAKER IS
PLEASED.

PLEASED AND
OVERJOYED.

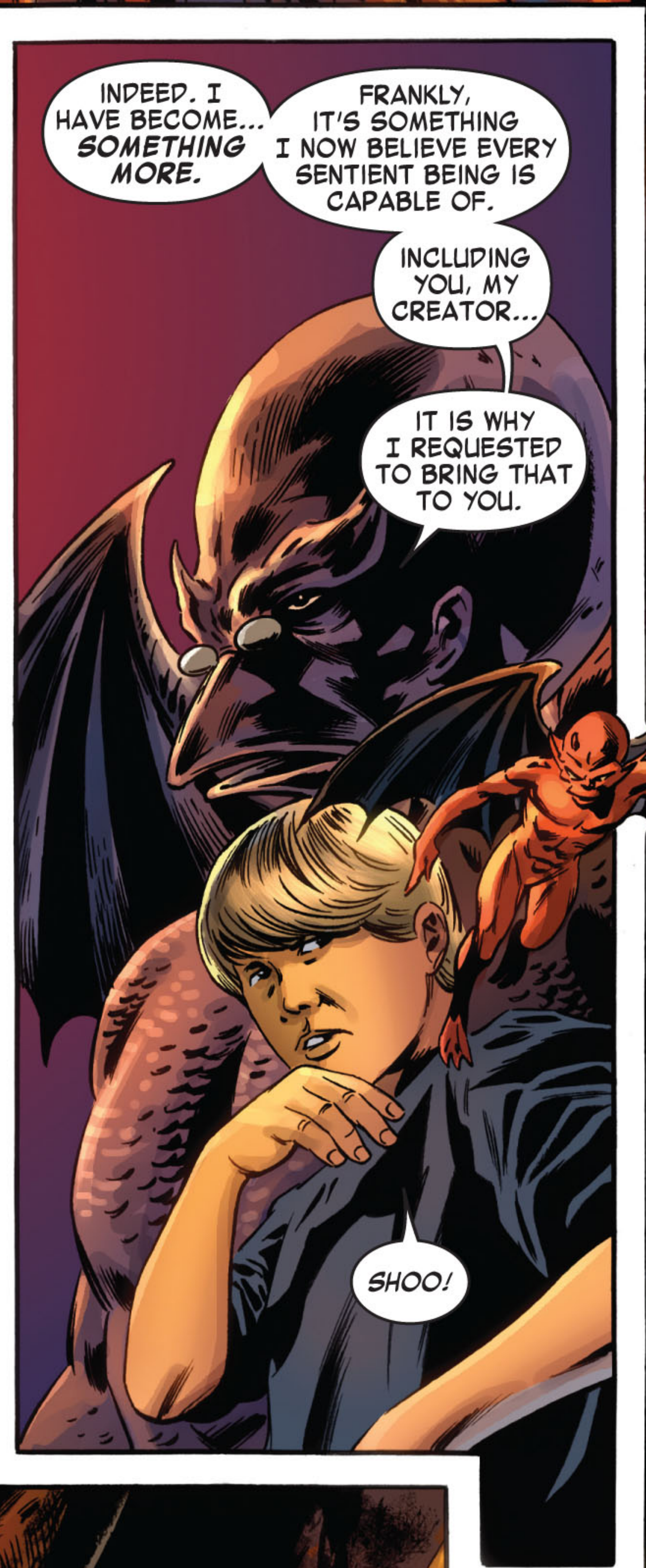
BLESS THE
MAKER. BLESS
THE MACHINE.

AND
BLESS THE BEN
FOR SALVATION AND
PROVIDING THIS GREAT
AND GLORIOUS
DAY!



YEAH,
YEAH...

LISTEN,
WYNPHAM...IF
YOU THINK THAT'S
SOMETHIN'...WAIT'LL
YOU TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS.





**LOWER AMDUAT
RESEARCH FACILITY
OF THE MAD THINKER.**



AN
INVITATION. AN
INVITATION!

IT'S THE
OPENING MOVE OF
THE GREATEST OF
GAMES--ASK YOURSELF,
WHO'S THE OPPONENT, WHAT
DOES HE WANT? IS THIS
HIS FIRST MOVE, OR SIMPLY
AN ORCHESTRATION TO
REVEAL WHO HIS REAL
OPPONENTS ARE...

OH, SO
VERY TRICKY. AN
INVITATION...WHAT
COULD IT POSSIBLY
MEAN?

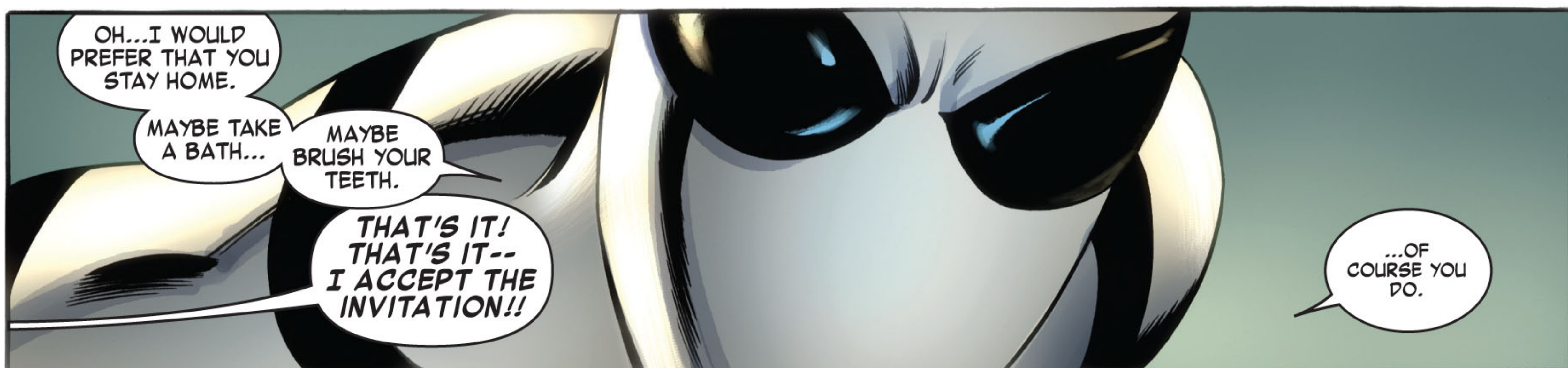
I THINK IT
MEANS YOU'RE
INVITED.



MMMMAAHHHH!
NO. NO. NO. NO.
NO!

FOOLISH PAWN.
FOOLISH PAWN THAT
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THAT
HE'S A PIECE...OH, OH...OR
MAYBE YOU'RE SOMETHING MORE.
MAYBE SO. YES, MAYBE I CAN
USE THIS. YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT
EVEN AWARE OF HOW MUCH HE'S
GIVEN AWAY BY SENDING YOU...

SO, REVEAL
ALL. TELL ME--
AND DON'T TRY AND
THINK IT OVER, AS I NEED
AN UNTAINTED, PRIMARY
RESPONSE--TELL ME,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?



OH...I WOULD
PREFER THAT YOU
STAY HOME.

MAYBE TAKE
A BATH...

MAYBE
BRUSH YOUR
TEETH.

THAT'S IT!
THAT'S IT--
I ACCEPT THE
INVITATION!!

...OF
COURSE YOU
DO.



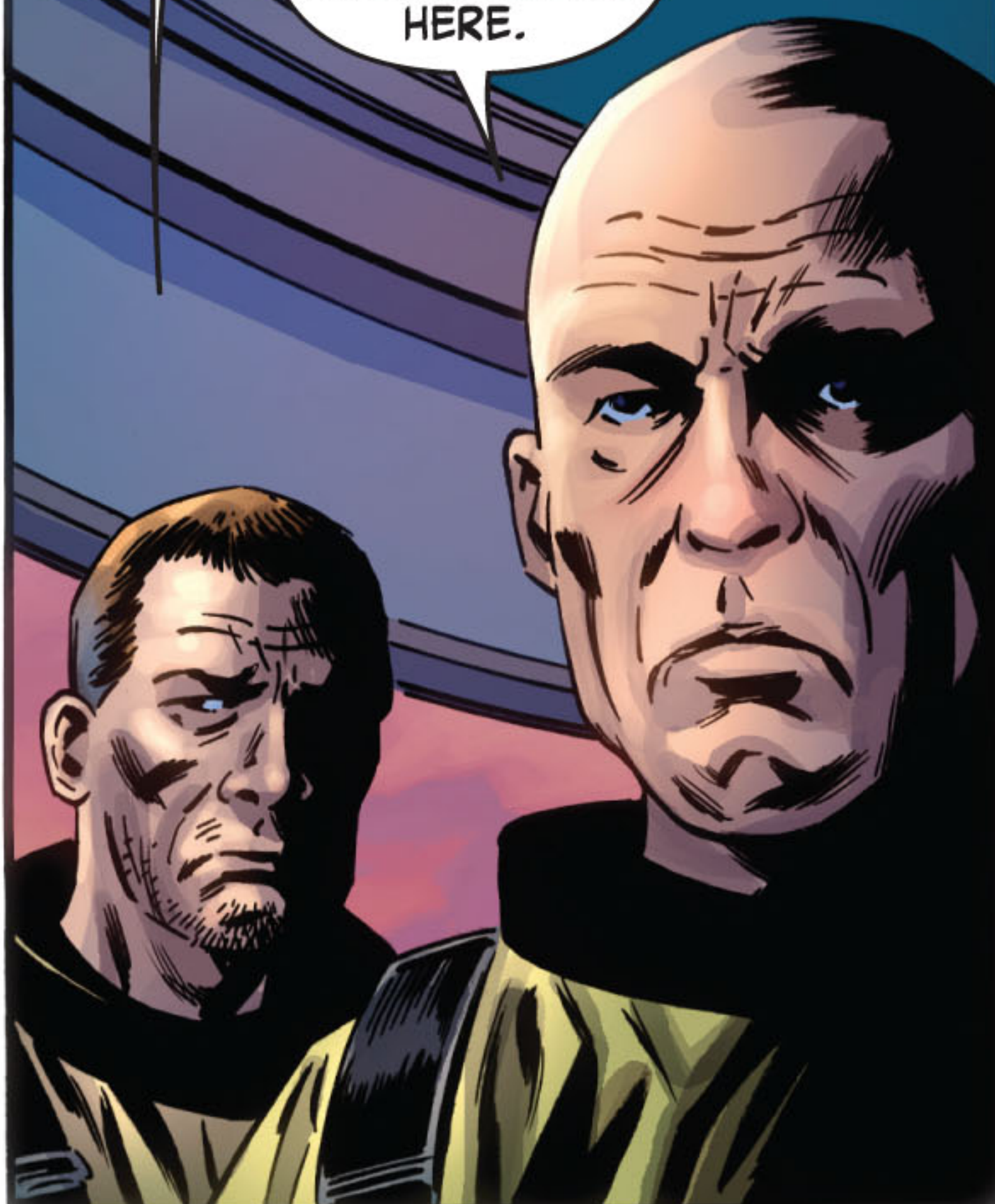
OUTLIER ISLAND.
SECRET A.I.M. BASE,
HOME OF THE WIZARD.



PUH-PUH-
PUH-PLEASE
CALM DOWN.

YES. THE
SECURITY ON THIS
ISLAND IS LIGHT YEARS
BEYOND STATE OF
THE ART, MR.
WITTMAN...

AND EVEN
IF IT COULD BE
BEATEN, NO ONE
KNOWS YOU'RE
HERE.



OH...GOD
KNOWS.

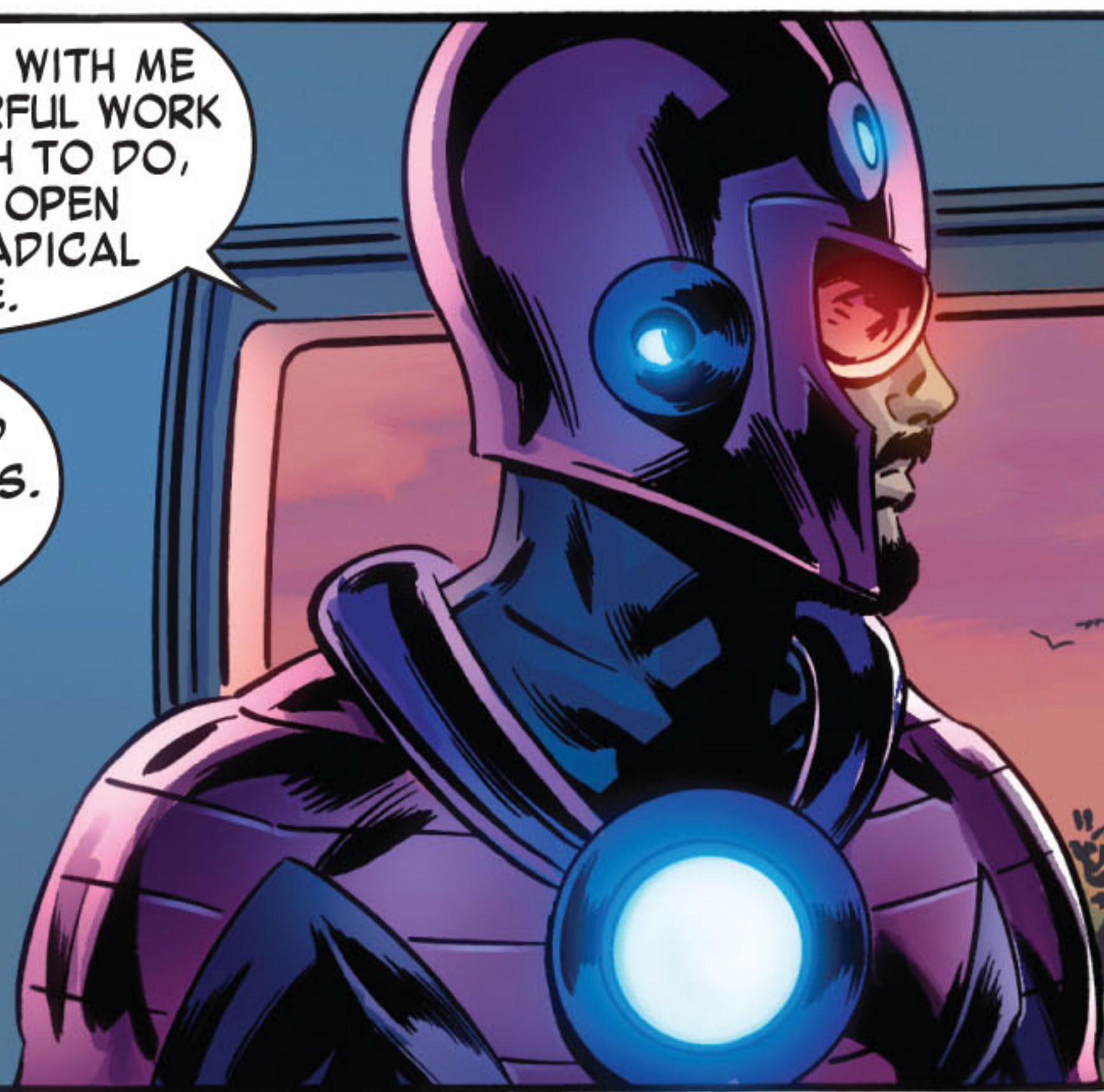
I'M
SWITCHING TO
INFRARED.



SEE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN WITH ME
DOING THE WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL WORK
WE'VE BEEN PUT ON THIS EARTH TO DO,
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO OPEN
YOURSELVES UP TO SOME RADICAL
NEW NOTIONS OF SCIENCE.

YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO EXPAND
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.
EXPAND YOUR...OH,
HELLO THERE...

HOW VERY...
FAMILIAR.

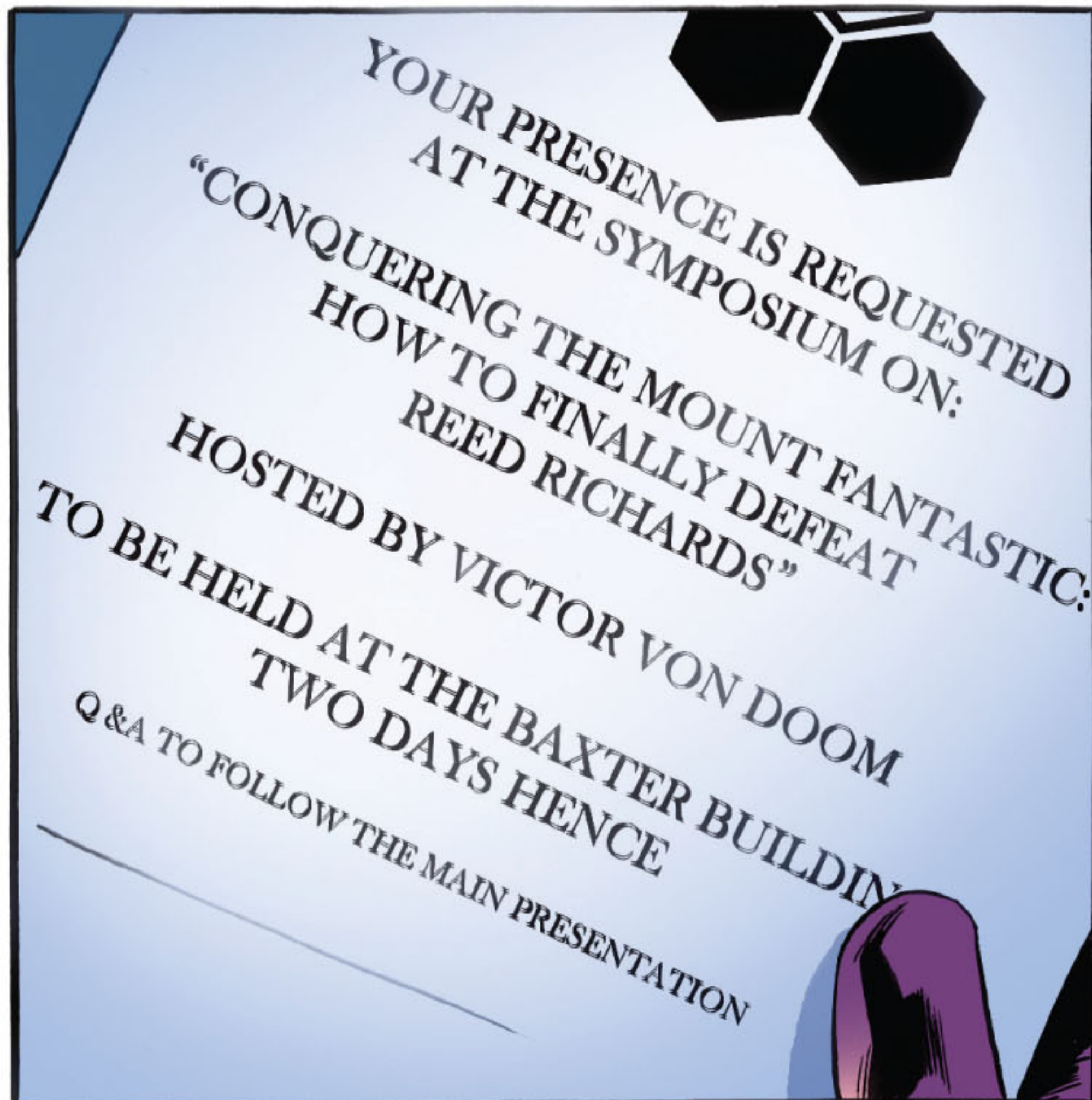
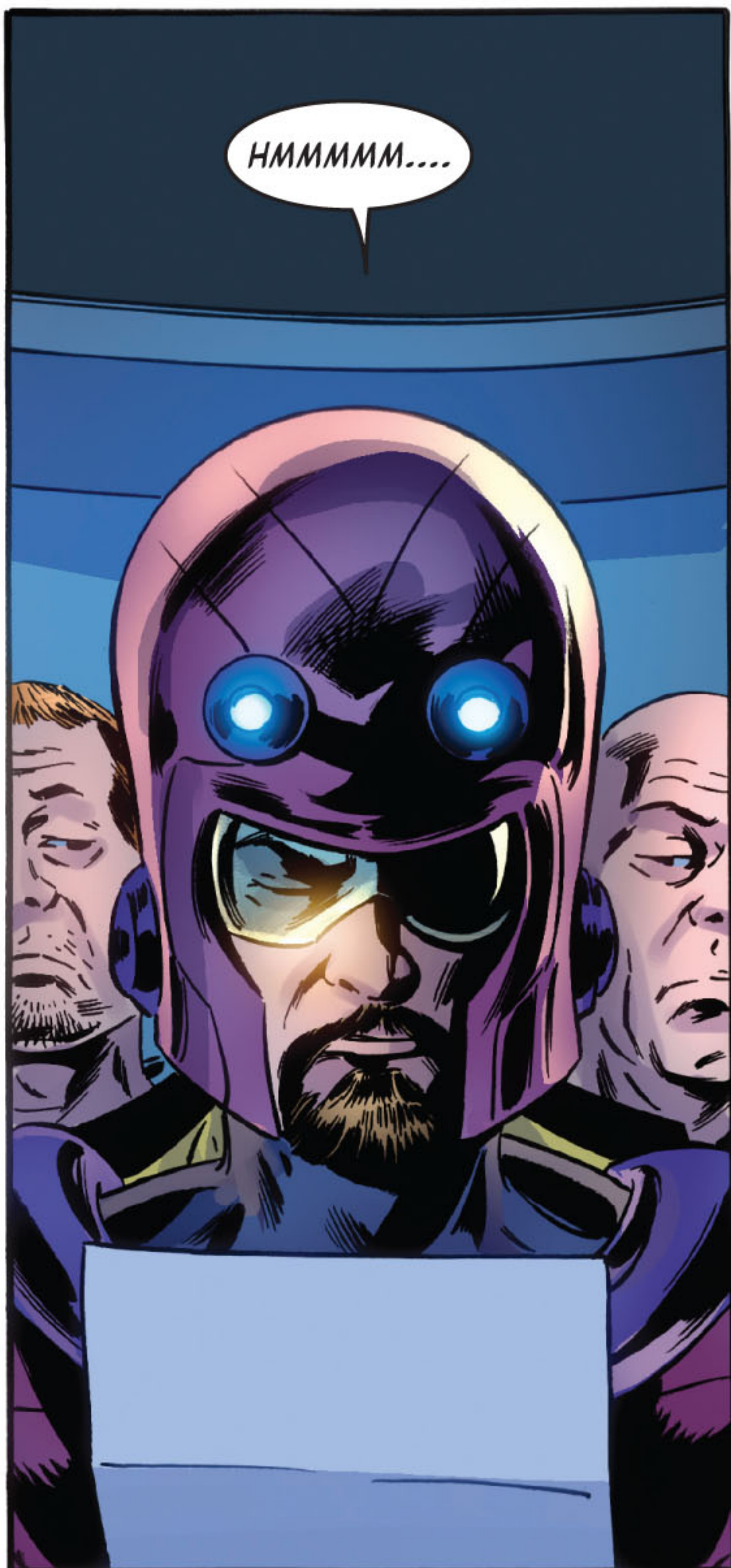
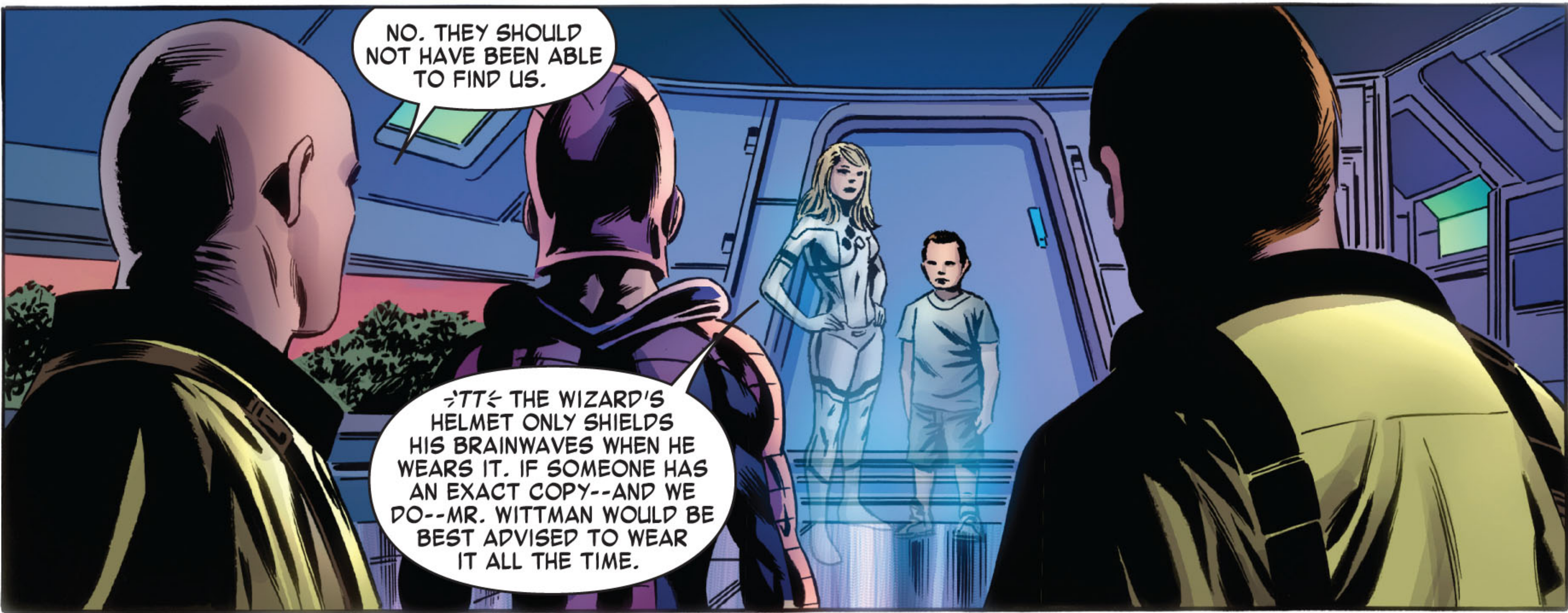


WUH-WUH-
WHAT?

HOW DID...
HOW?

FATE,
DR. FORSON.







**TWO DAYS LATER.
THE BAXTER BUILDING.**



WELCOME.
TOGETHER,
WE WILL DO A
GREAT, GREAT
THING.

BUT...

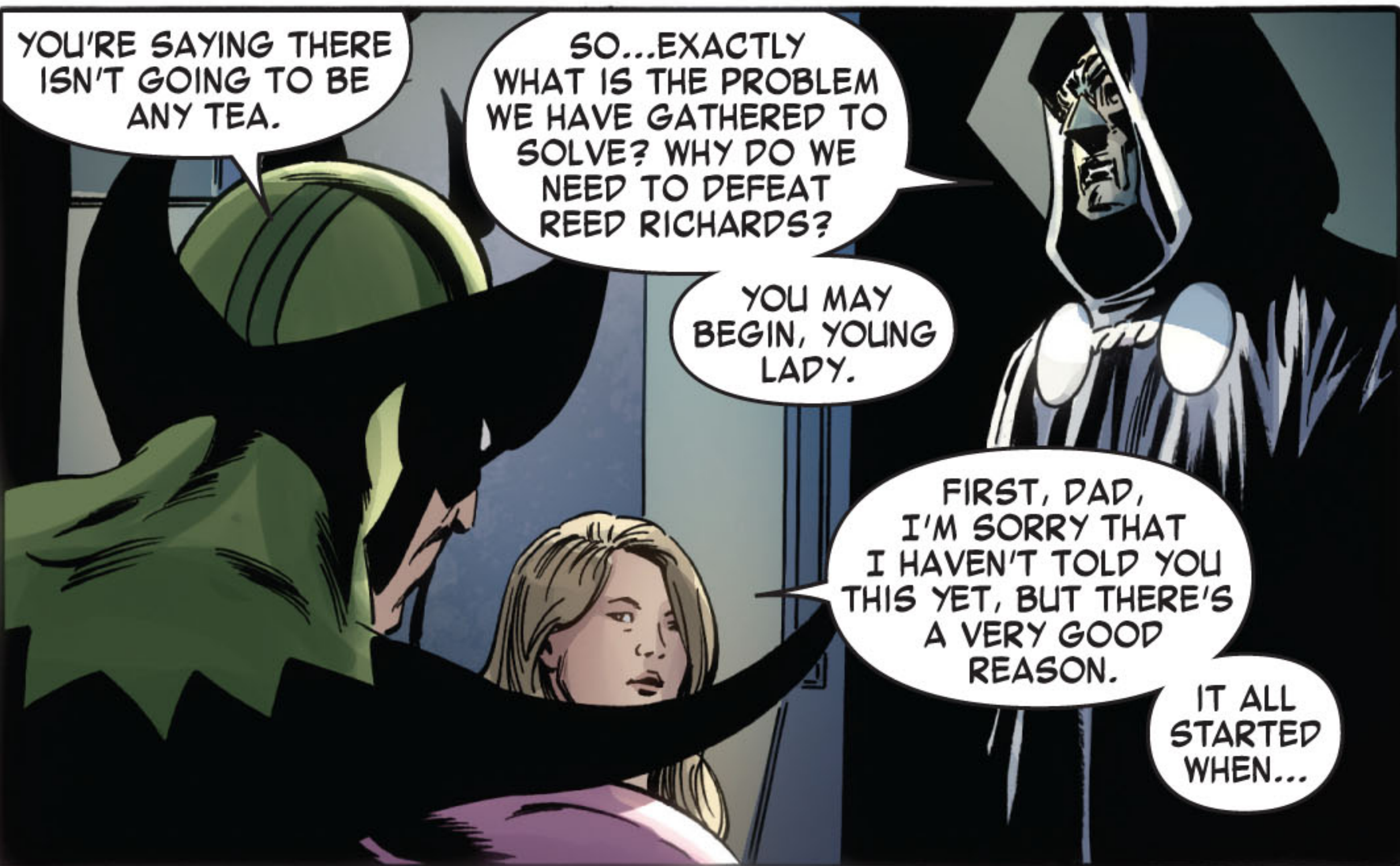


...BEFORE YOU BEGIN, I WANT
TO REITERATE A POINT I'VE
ALREADY MADE TO VICTOR.
NUMEROUS TIMES.

YOU ARE
ONLY HERE BECAUSE
MY DAUGHTER SAYS
THAT IT IS NECESSARY
AND MY FATHER HAS
VOUCHED FOR BOTH
HER AND DOOM.

KNOW THAT
THE AVENGERS ARE
ON STANDBY, AND IF I GET
A SINGLE WHIFF OF THIS
GOING BEYOND A THEORETICAL
DISCUSSION, THIS SITUATION WILL
GO NUCLEAR FASTER THAN
YOU CAN SAY THE ATOMIC
WEIGHT OF HYDROGEN.

AM
I GETTING
THROUGH TO
EVERYONE?



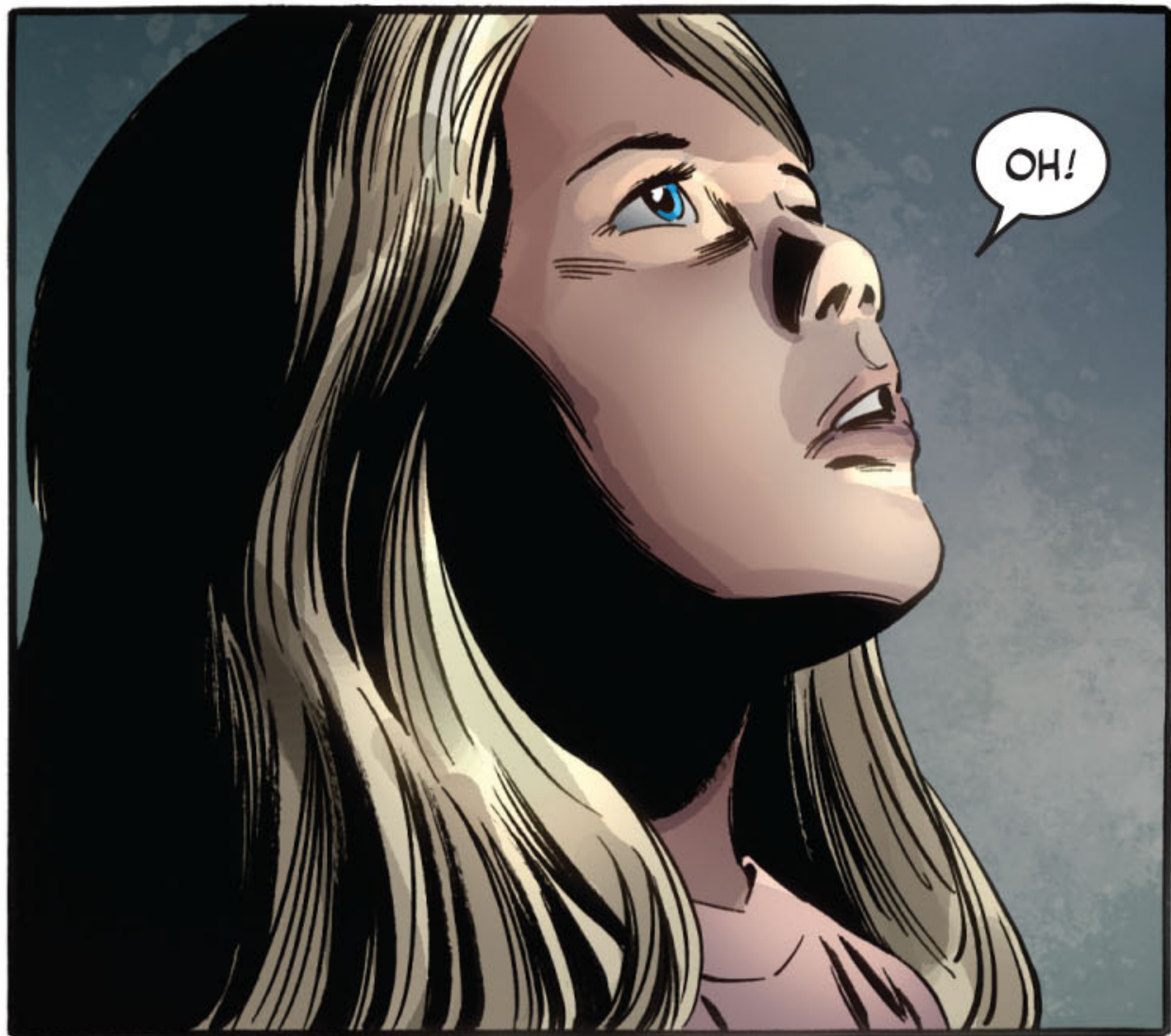
YOU'RE SAYING THERE
ISN'T GOING TO BE
ANY TEA.

SO...EXACTLY
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM
WE HAVE GATHERED TO
SOLVE? WHY DO WE
NEED TO DEFEAT
REED RICHARDS?

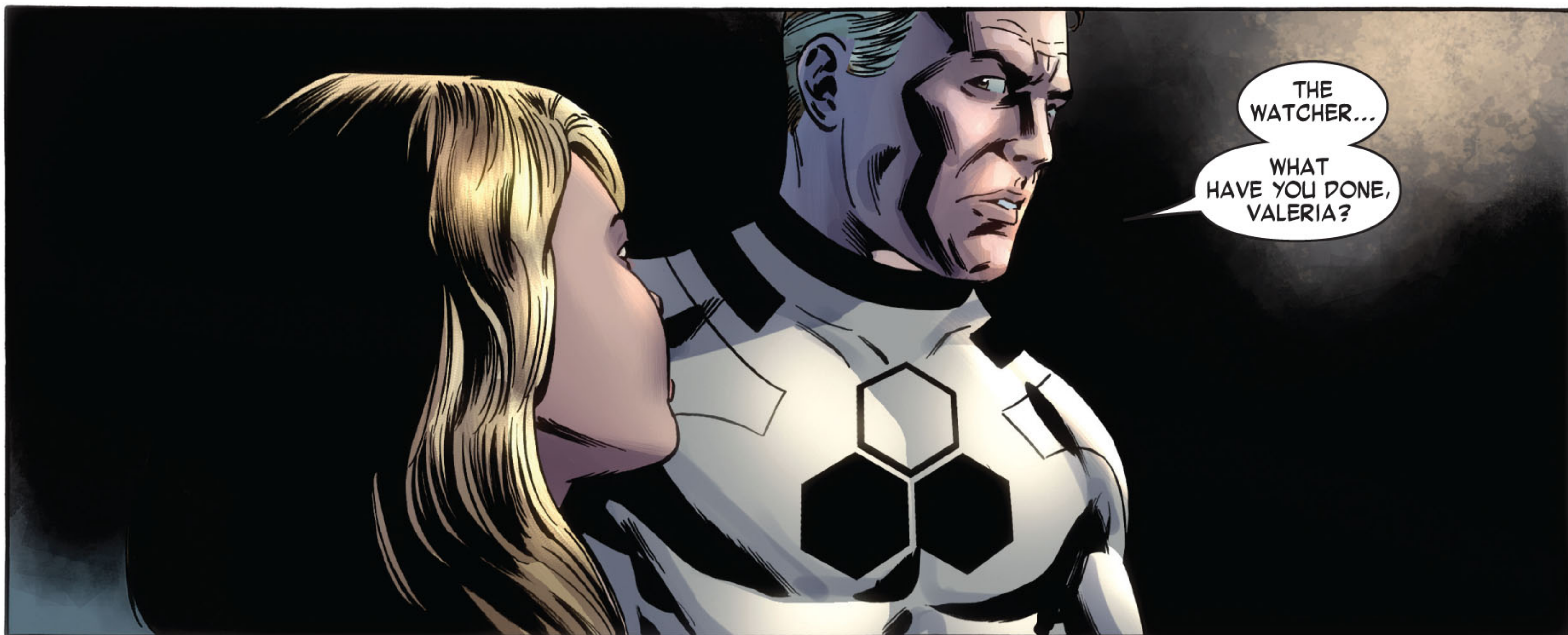
YOU MAY
BEGIN, YOUNG
LADY.

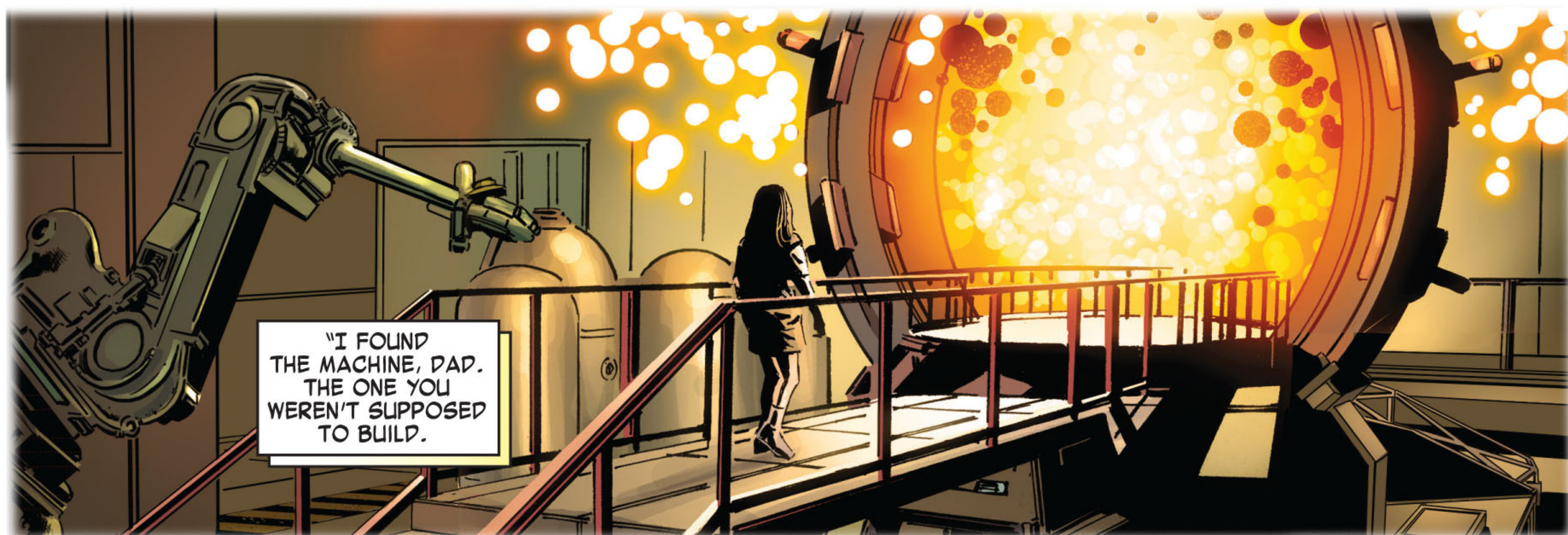
FIRST, DAD,
I'M SORRY THAT
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU
THIS YET, BUT THERE'S
A VERY GOOD
REASON.

IT ALL
STARTED
WHEN...



OH!





"I FOUND
THE MACHINE, DAD.
THE ONE YOU
WEREN'T SUPPOSED
TO BUILD."



"I WENT THROUGH
IT AND FOUND
THE COUNCIL."

"I FOUND ALL
THOSE YOUS."



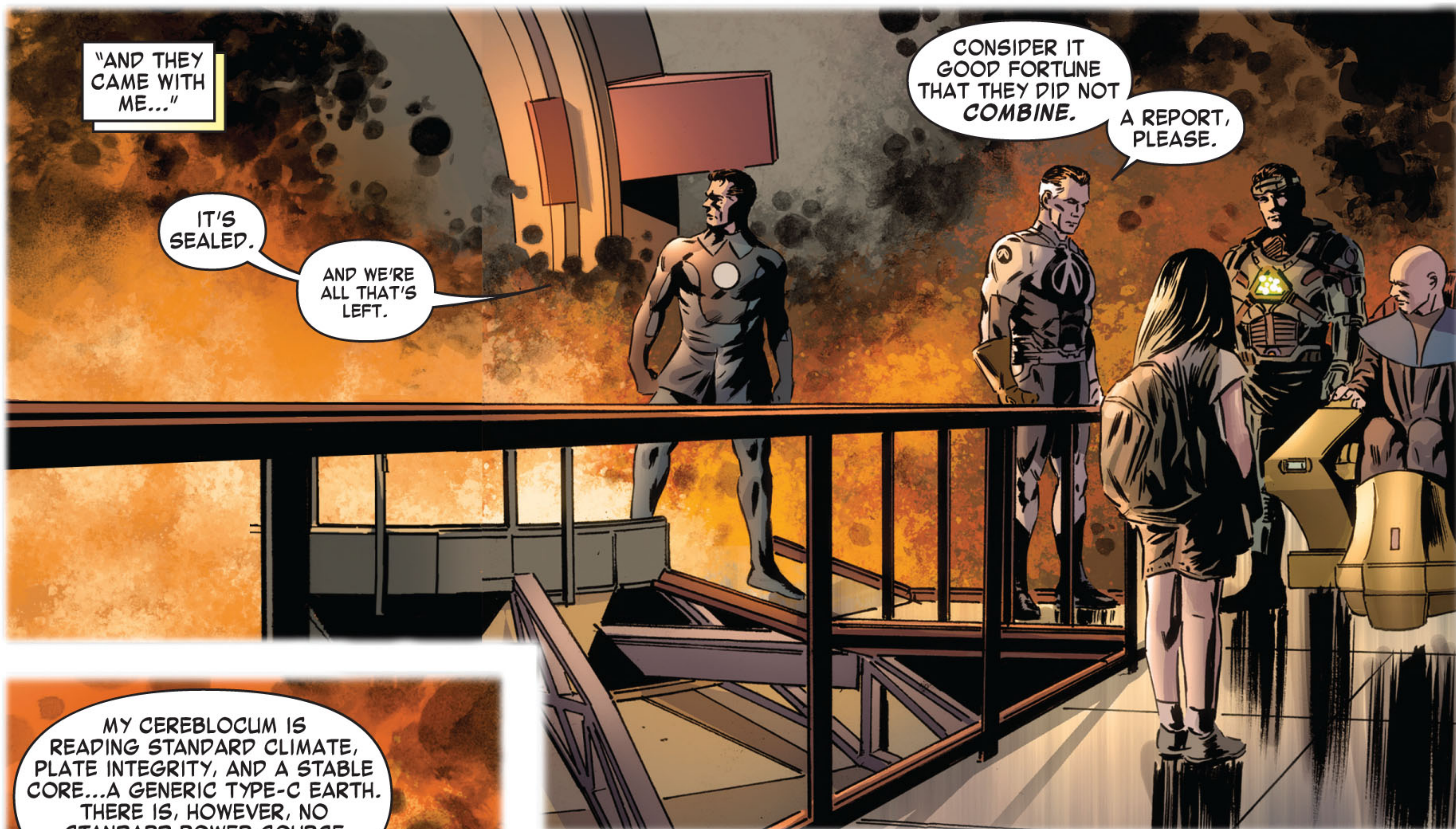
"I FOUND OUT THEY CAME
FROM DIFFERENT EARTHS.
DIFFERENT EARTHS IN
DIFFERENT UNIVERSES..."

"UNIVERSES THEY
CONTROLLED..."



"...UNTIL THEY WERE FOUND BY ANGRY GODS."

"SO I RAN BACK HOME..."



"AND THEY CAME WITH ME..."

IT'S SEALED.

AND WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT.

CONSIDER IT GOOD FORTUNE THAT THEY DID NOT COMBINE.

A REPORT, PLEASE.



MY CEREBLOCUM IS READING STANDARD CLIMATE, PLATE INTEGRITY, AND A STABLE CORE...A GENERIC TYPE-C EARTH. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO STANDARD POWER SOURCE BEYOND LARGE CORE NUCLEAR...

GOD, REED...WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WASTING ALL YOUR TIME ON?



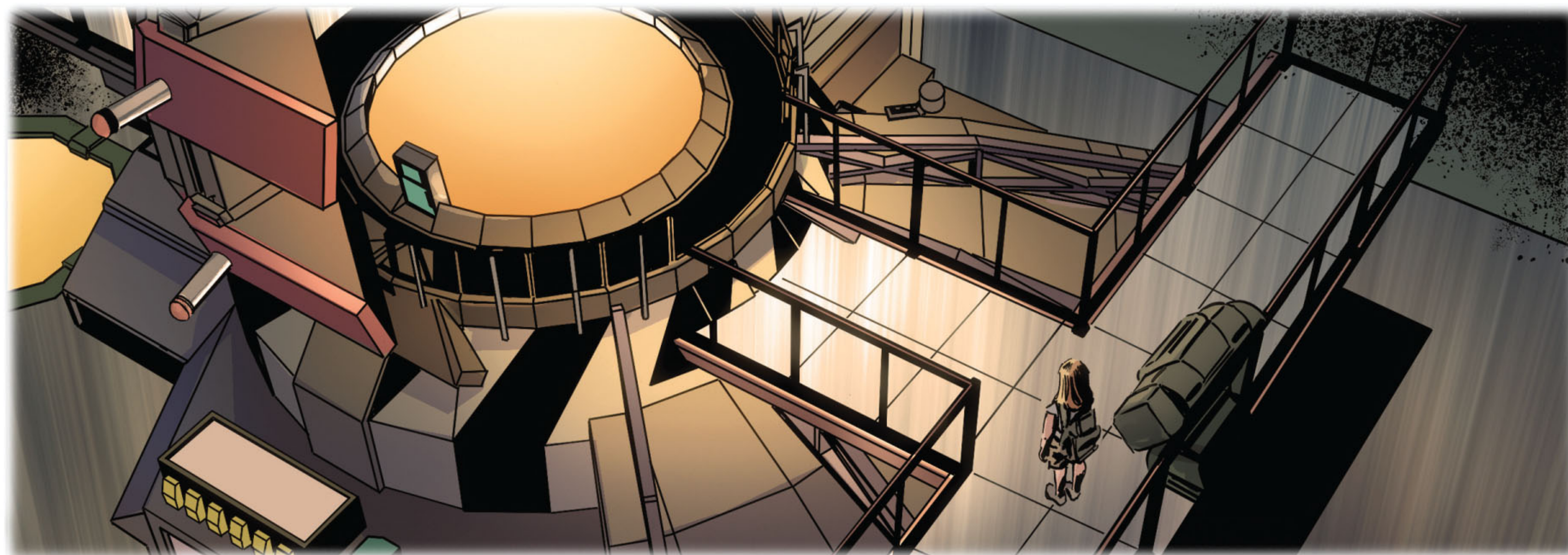
FAMILY PICNICS, I'M GUESSING.



GENTLEMEN...

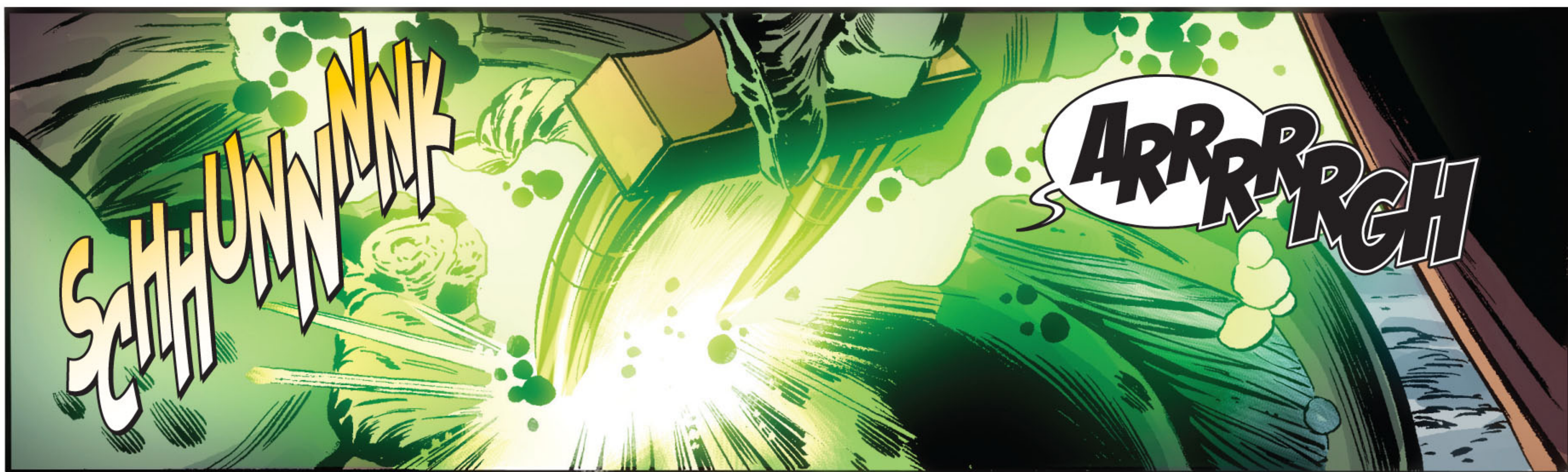
RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE WORLDS DYING WHILE WE STAND HERE TRAPPED ON THIS ONE. LOOK HARDER.

FIND ME SOMETHING I CAN USE.



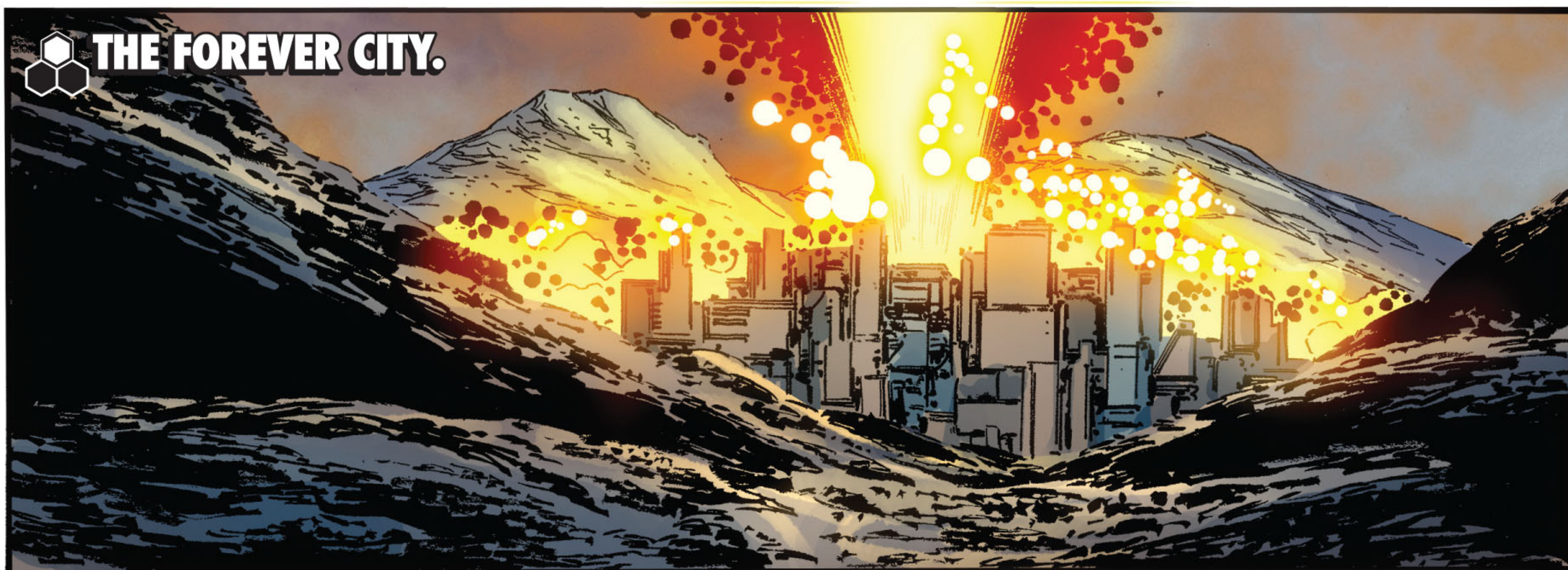
 MONTHS LATER.
THE PEAK.
OLD ATLANTIS.







THE FOREVER CITY.



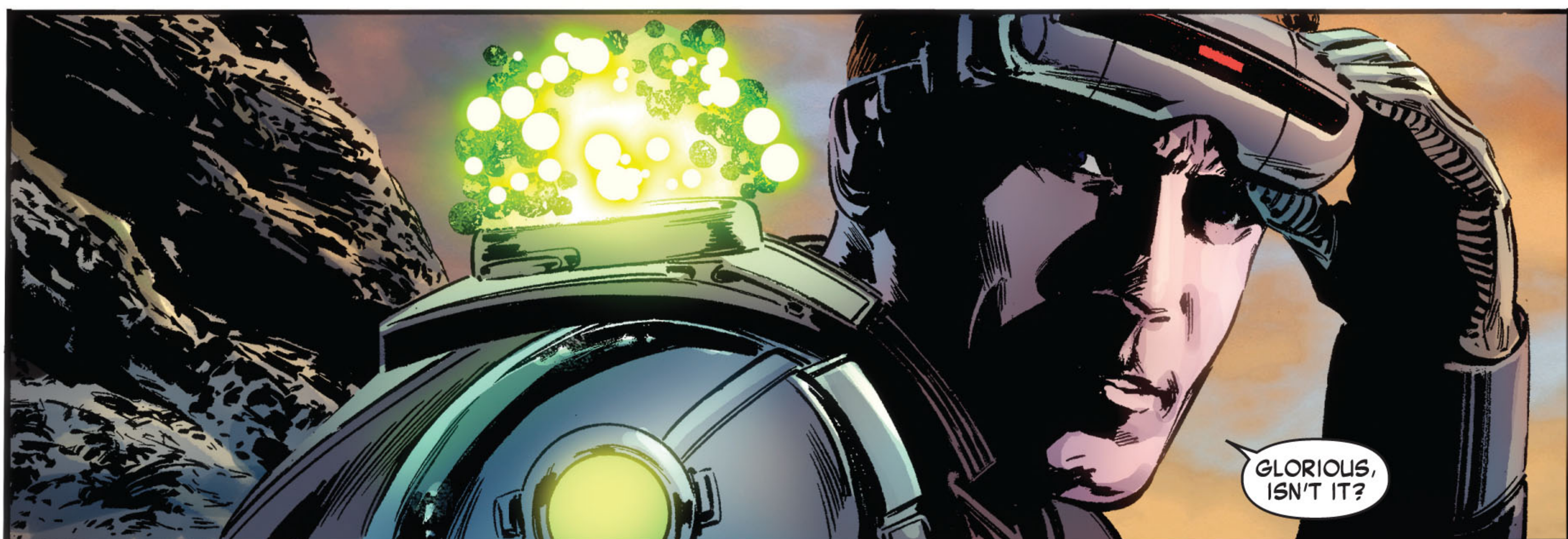
LOOK AT THAT.

LIKE SO MANY THINGS, THE REAL MAGIC LIES BEYOND WHAT IS EASILY VISIBLE.

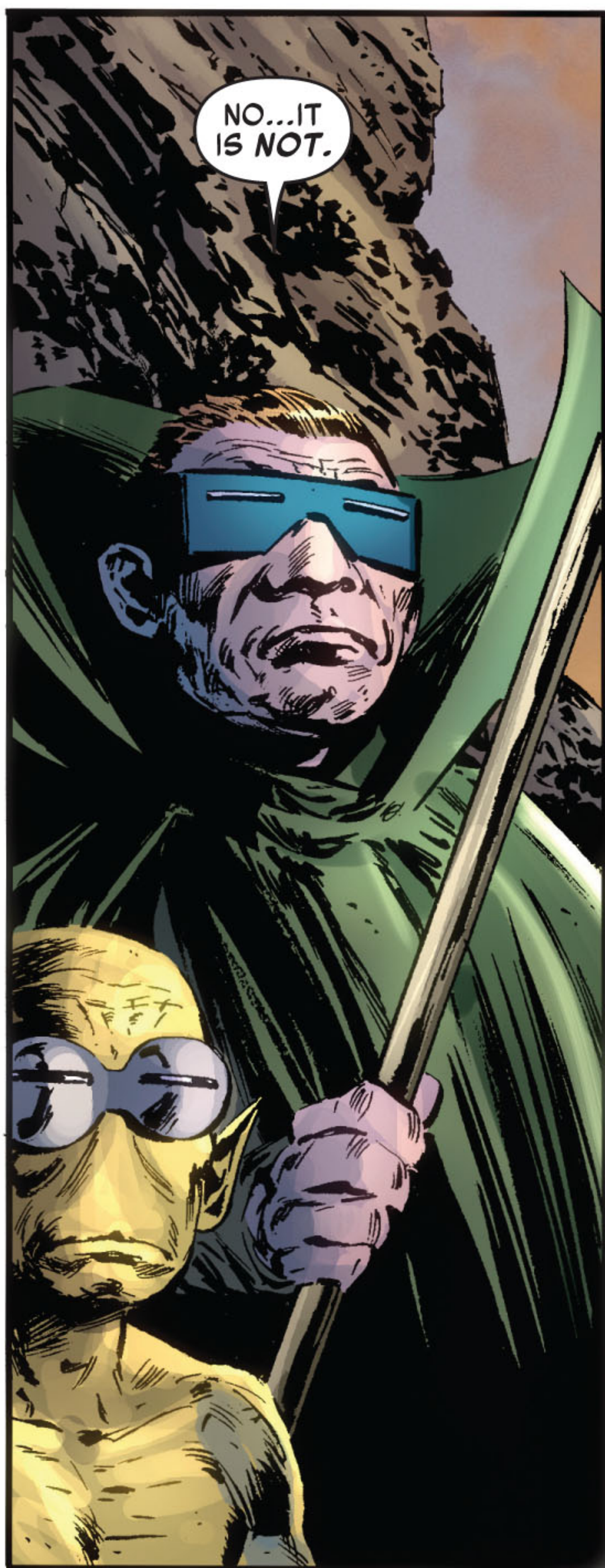


THE ASCENSION ENGINE IS THE VERY BEST OF EVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY.

IN FACT, IT'S REALLY A MECHANICAL REFLECTION OF WHAT MY BROTHERS AND I ARE--WE BOTH TRULY PUSH PROGRESS.



GLORIOUS, ISN'T IT?



NO...IT IS NOT.



YOU SHOULDN'T FEAR PROGRESS, HARVEY ELDER. IT'S INEVITABLE. UNAVOIDABLE.

AND ONLY, ON VERY RARE OCCASIONS, CAN IT BE DELAYED.

WITH EACH PASSING DAY, MORE AND MORE OF MY MOLOIDS LEAVE ME TO VENTURE TO THE FOREVER CITY TO BE... TRANSFORMED.

IT MUST STOP.



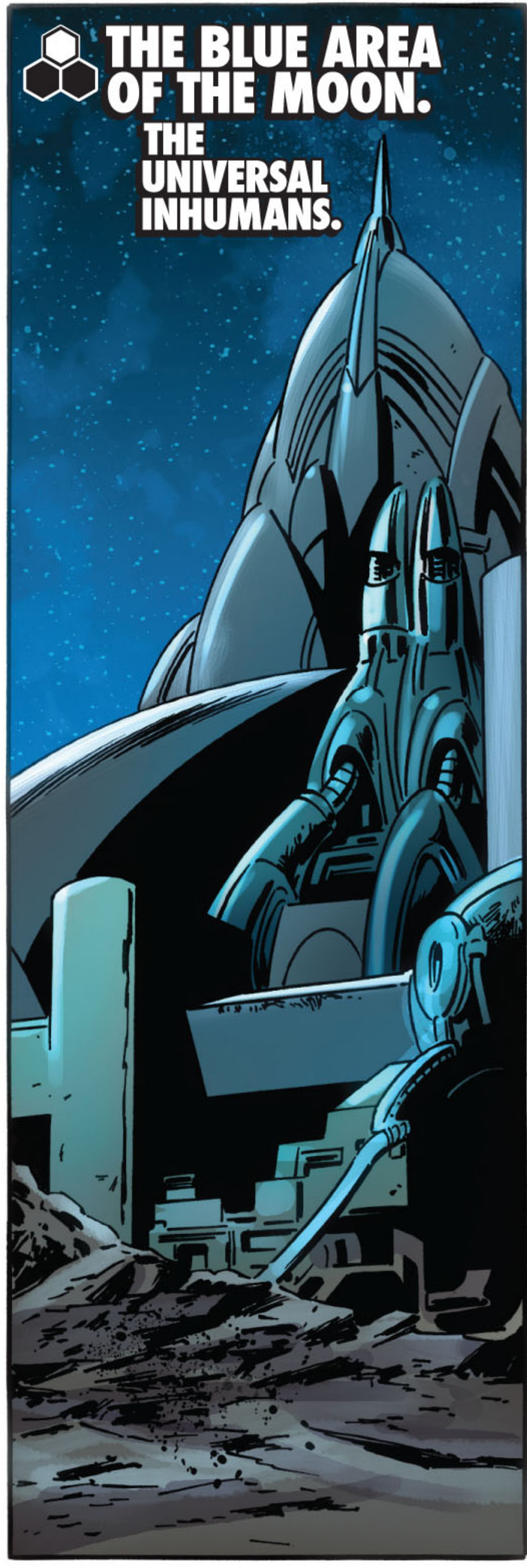
AH...WHO WOULD WANT TO BE THE MOLE MAN IF THE CROWN NO LONGER COMES WITH A KINGDOM?



I...WANT... MY PEOPLE BACK.



AND EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN?



**THE BLUE AREA
OF THE MOON.
THE
UNIVERSAL
INHUMANS.**



...AND THAT IS WHAT WE CAN OFFER EACH OF YOU-- I'M SURE YOU ALL AGREE, IT IS NO SMALL AMOUNT.

IN RETURN, WE WILL NEED FULL ACCESS TO A SMALL PORTION OF THE BLUE AREA WHERE WE ARE PLANNING SEVERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENDEAVORS.

THOSE ARE MY TERMS...DO YOU FIND THEM AGREEABLE?



ARRIS?



IT'S INTERESTING, MY QUEEN. HE IS HEAVILY SHIELDED, BUT APPARENTLY HAS NEVER ENCOUNTERED A CENTAURI TELEPATH...

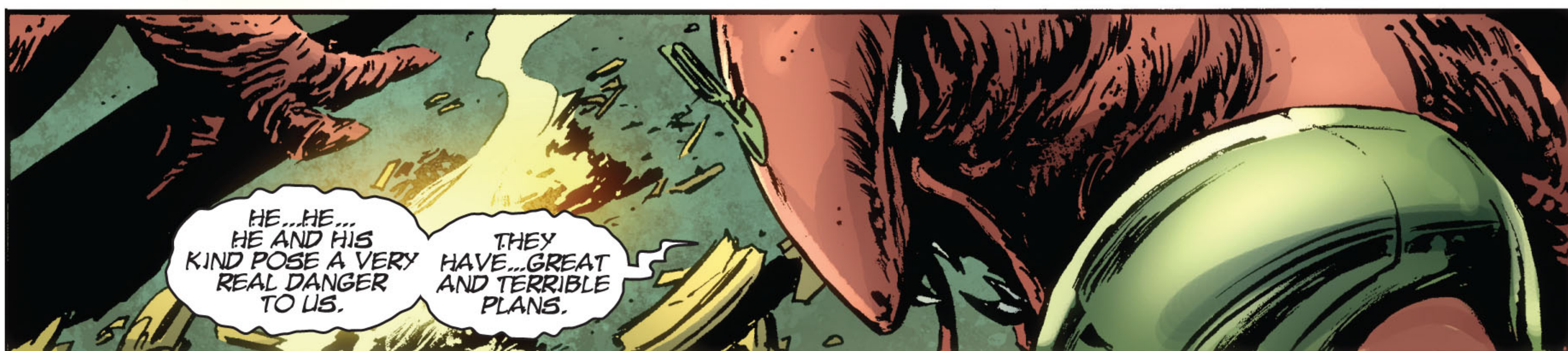
AND?



HE LIES.



WHITEMANE!







MY
MASTER...
ANNIHILUS.

SSSSPPPPPEEEAK,
RICHAAARRDS.

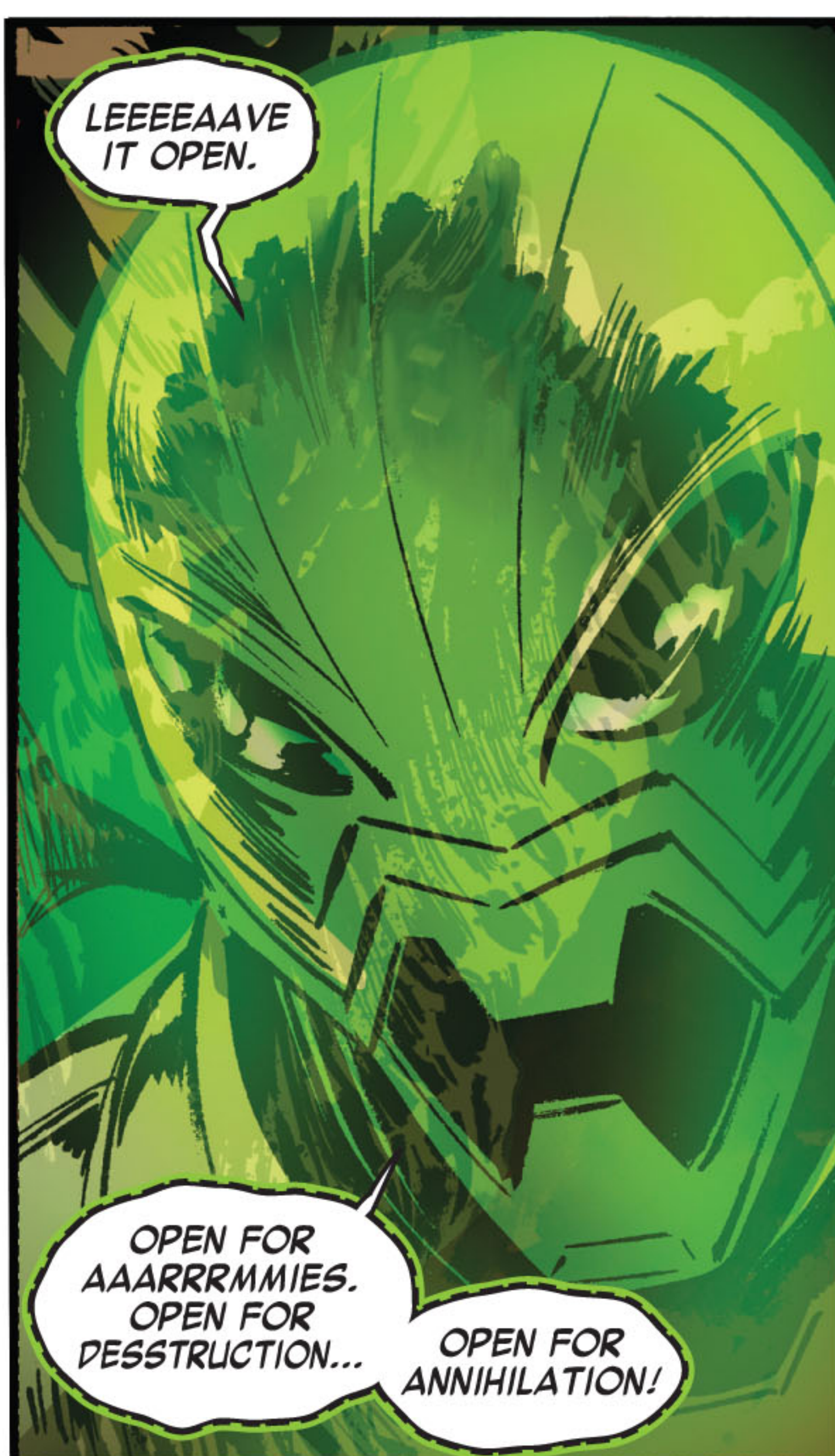


YES...WELL,
FIRST, I AM NOT THE
REED RICHARDS YOU ARE
FAMILIAR WITH. I AM ACTUALLY
FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE...
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND
THIS CONCEPT.

I WOULD
LIKE TO RETURN
HOME, BUT TO DO
THAT, I AM GOING
TO NEED TO ACCESS
THE NEGATIVE
ZONE...

I'M GOING
TO NEED TO
BRIEFLY OPEN
A VERY LARGE
PORTAL TO
YOUR HOME.

WHAT WOULD
IT TAKE FOR YOU
TO ASSIST ME IN
DOING THIS?



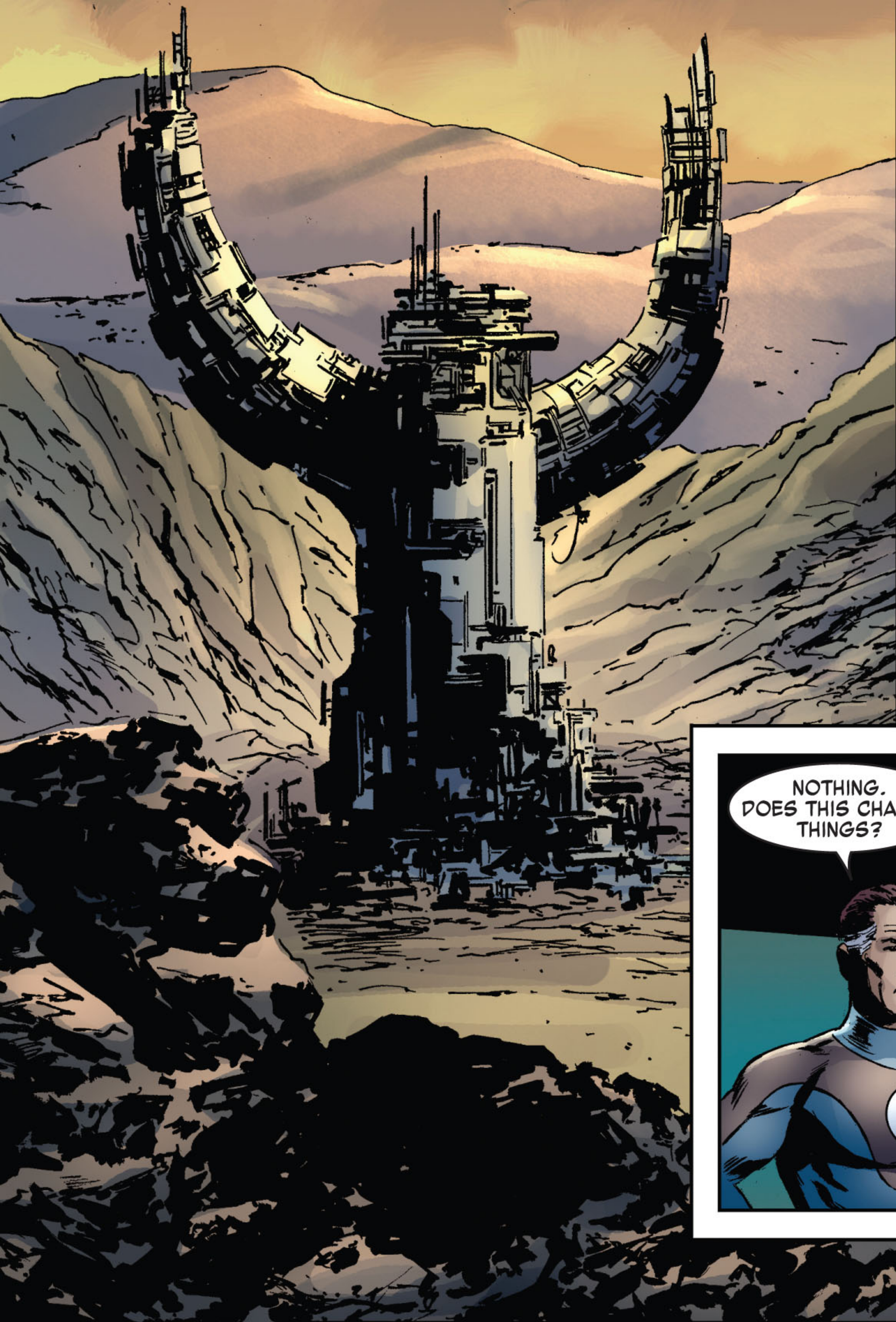
LEEEAAVE
IT OPEN.

OPEN FOR
AAARRRMIES.
OPEN FOR
DESSTRUCTION...

OPEN FOR
ANNIHILATION!



THAT CAN BE
ARRANGED.



NEXT ISSUE:



THIS MEANS WAR

HICKMAN

•

KITSON

•

MOUNTS



TM

MARVEL

4

VAL INADVERTENTLY RELEASED FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL INTO OUR UNIVERSE. A WORLD-ALTERING WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES HAS BEEN FORETOLD BY A VAL FROM THE FUTURE. IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME DIMENSION, THE REEDS INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THIS WAR. THE FF HAVE GATHERED THEIR MOST INTELLIGENT FOES TO PLAN A COUNTER-STRATEGY AGAINST THE REEDS.



“THE BEATING OF DRUMS...”



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



VALERIA RICHARDS



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DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



WU & VIL



MIK, KOR & TURG



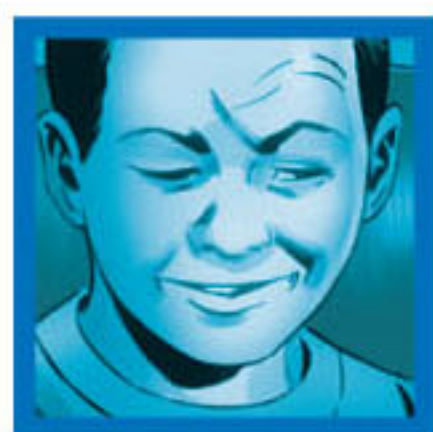
TONG



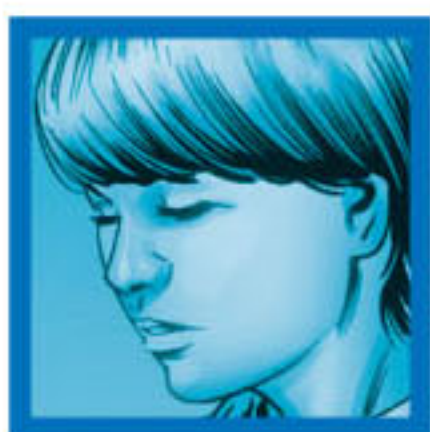
LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **BARRY KITSON**

COLOR ARTIST: **PAUL MOUNTS**

LETTERER: **VC's CLAYTON COWLES**

COVER ARTISTS: **DANIEL ACUÑA & MARKO DJURDJEVIC**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: **LAUREN SANKOVITCH**

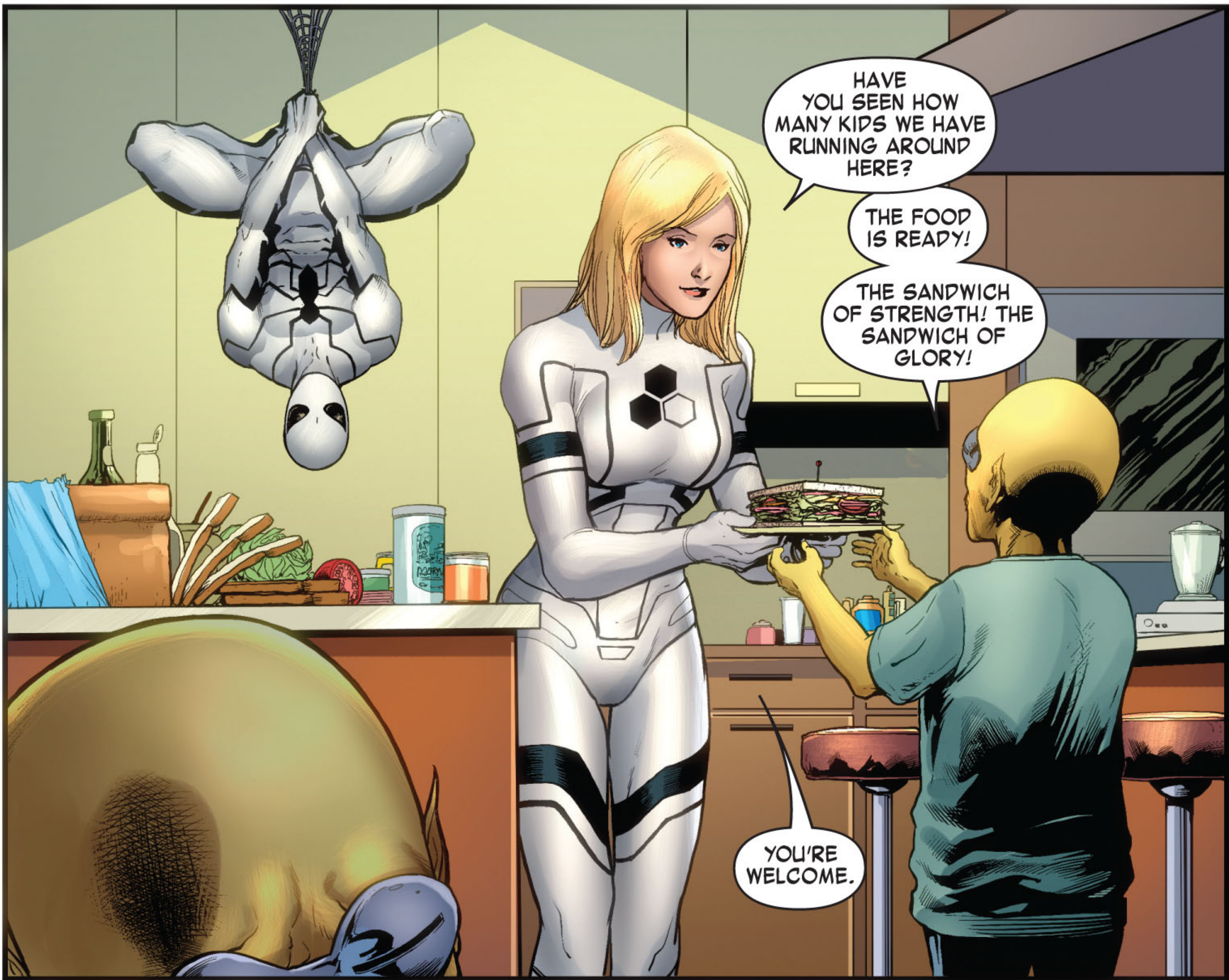
EDITOR: **TOM BREVOORT**

EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE
LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS: STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY



YOU GUYS
SURE LOVE YOUR
SANDWICHES.

WHY ARE
YOU CUTTING OFF
THE CRUST?

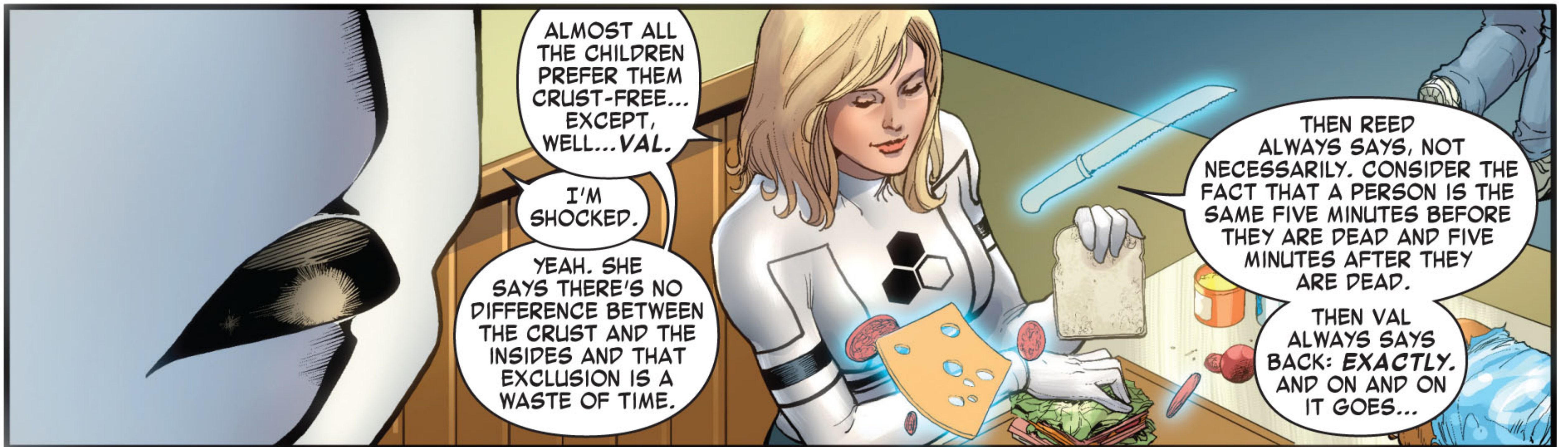


HAVE
YOU SEEN HOW
MANY KIDS WE HAVE
RUNNING AROUND
HERE?

THE FOOD
IS READY!

THE SANDWICH
OF STRENGTH! THE
SANDWICH OF
GLORY!

YOU'RE
WELCOME.



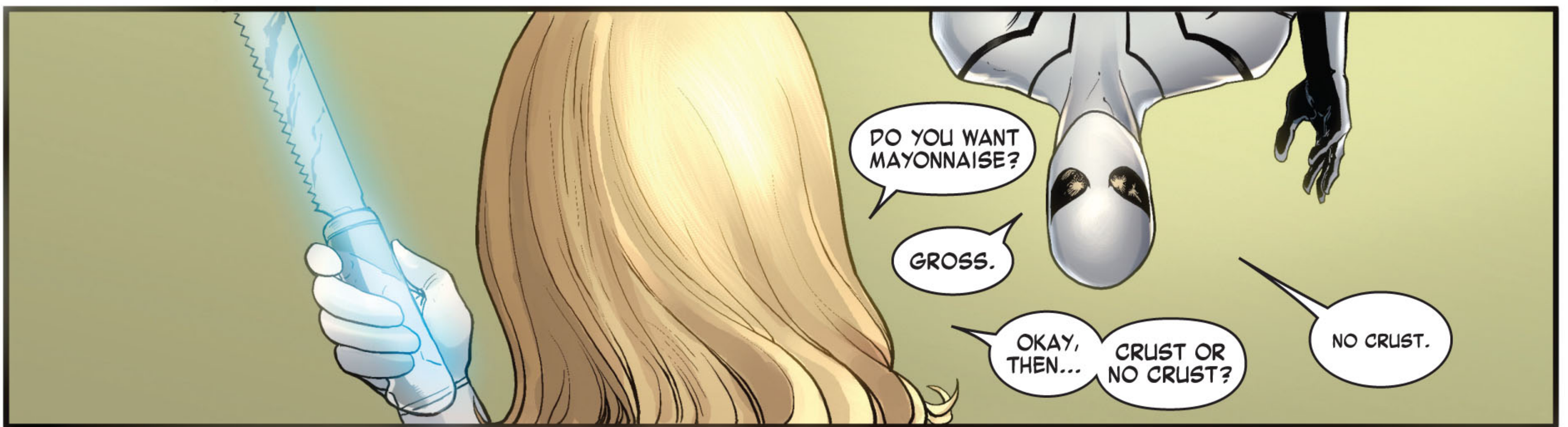
ALMOST ALL
THE CHILDREN
PREFER THEM
CRUST-FREE...
EXCEPT,
WELL... VAL.

I'M
SHOCKED.

YEAH. SHE
SAYS THERE'S NO
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE CRUST AND THE
INSIDES AND THAT
EXCLUSION IS A
WASTE OF TIME.

THEN REED
ALWAYS SAYS, NOT
NECESSARILY. CONSIDER THE
FACT THAT A PERSON IS THE
SAME FIVE MINUTES BEFORE
THEY ARE DEAD AND FIVE
MINUTES AFTER THEY
ARE DEAD.

THEN VAL
ALWAYS SAYS
BACK: **EXACTLY.**
AND ON AND ON
IT GOES...



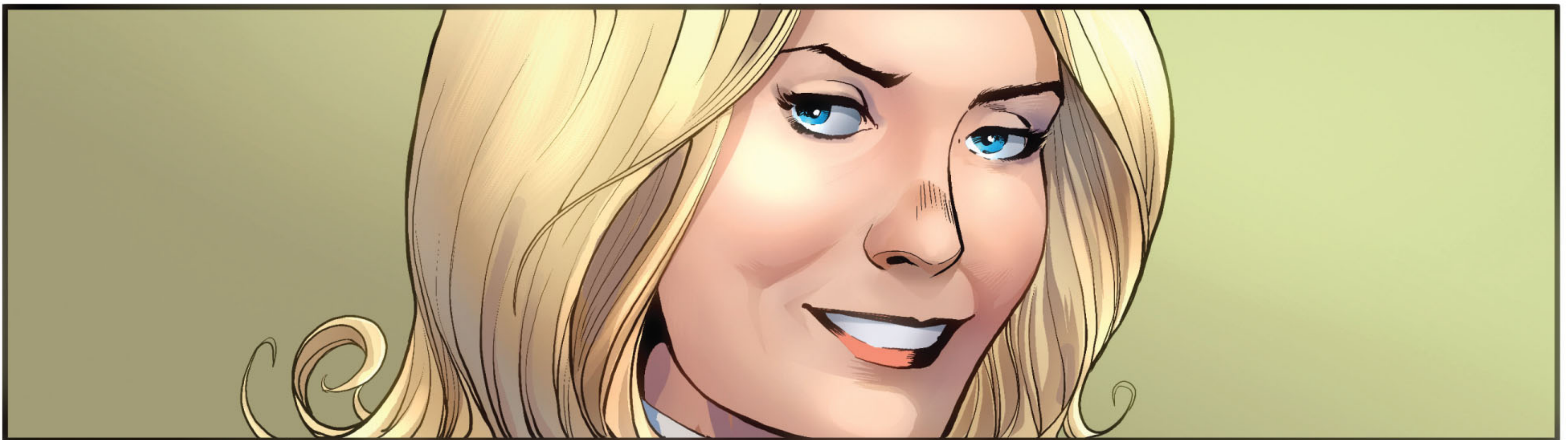
DO YOU WANT
MAYONNAISE?

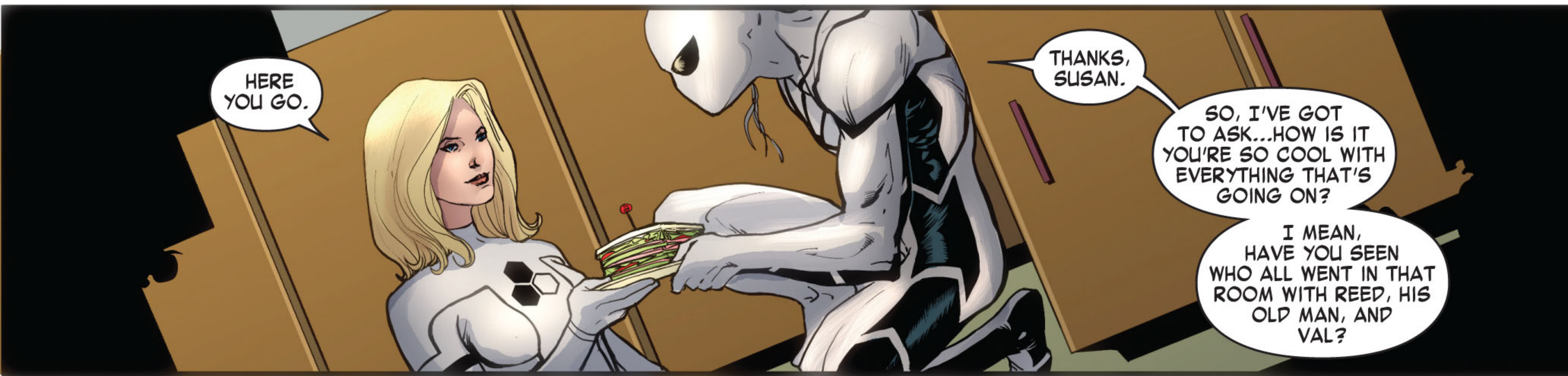
GROSS.

OKAY,
THEN...

CRUST OR
NO CRUST?

NO CRUST.



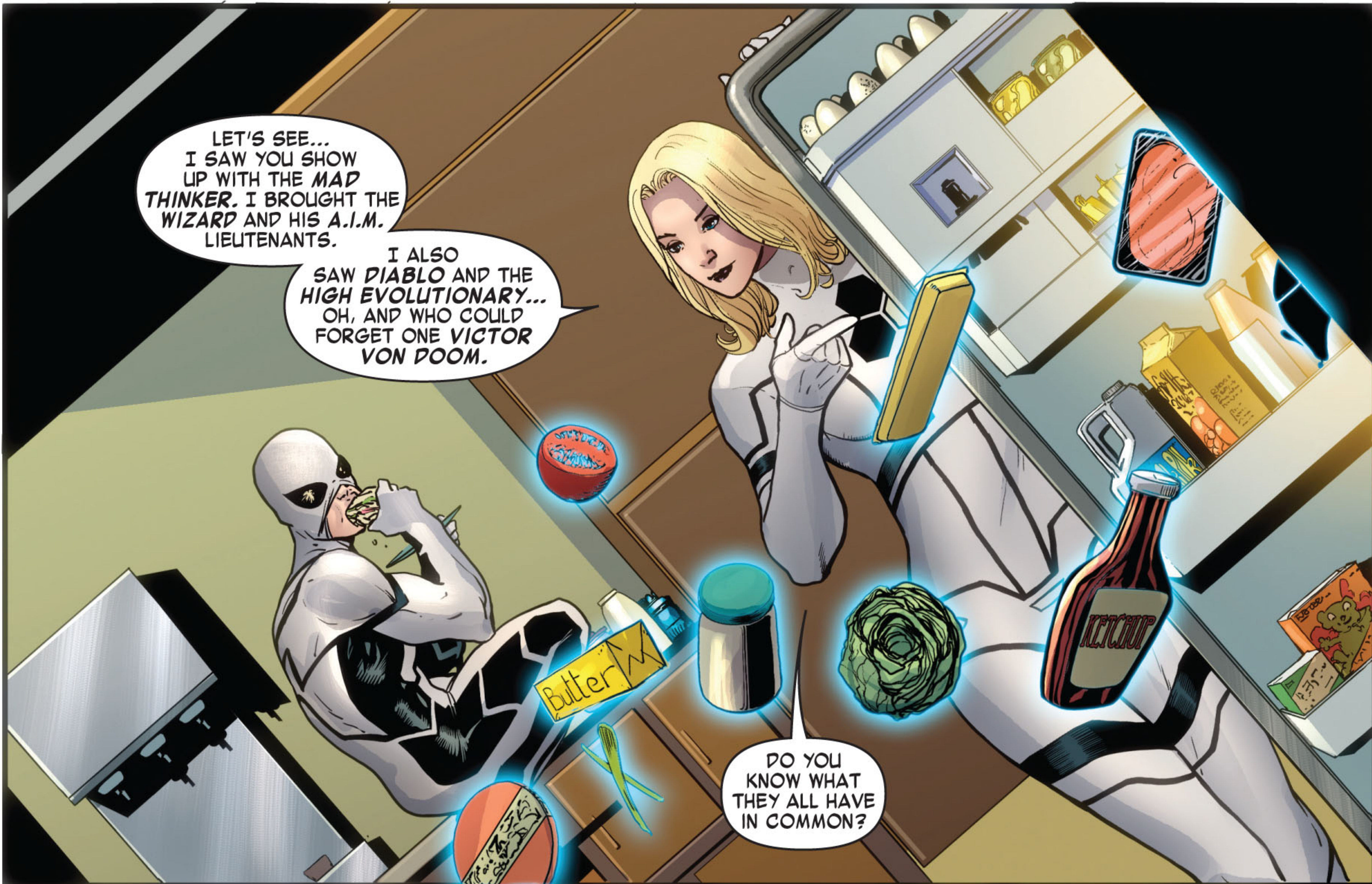


HERE YOU GO.

THANKS, SUSAN.

SO, I'VE GOT TO ASK...HOW IS IT YOU'RE SO COOL WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON?

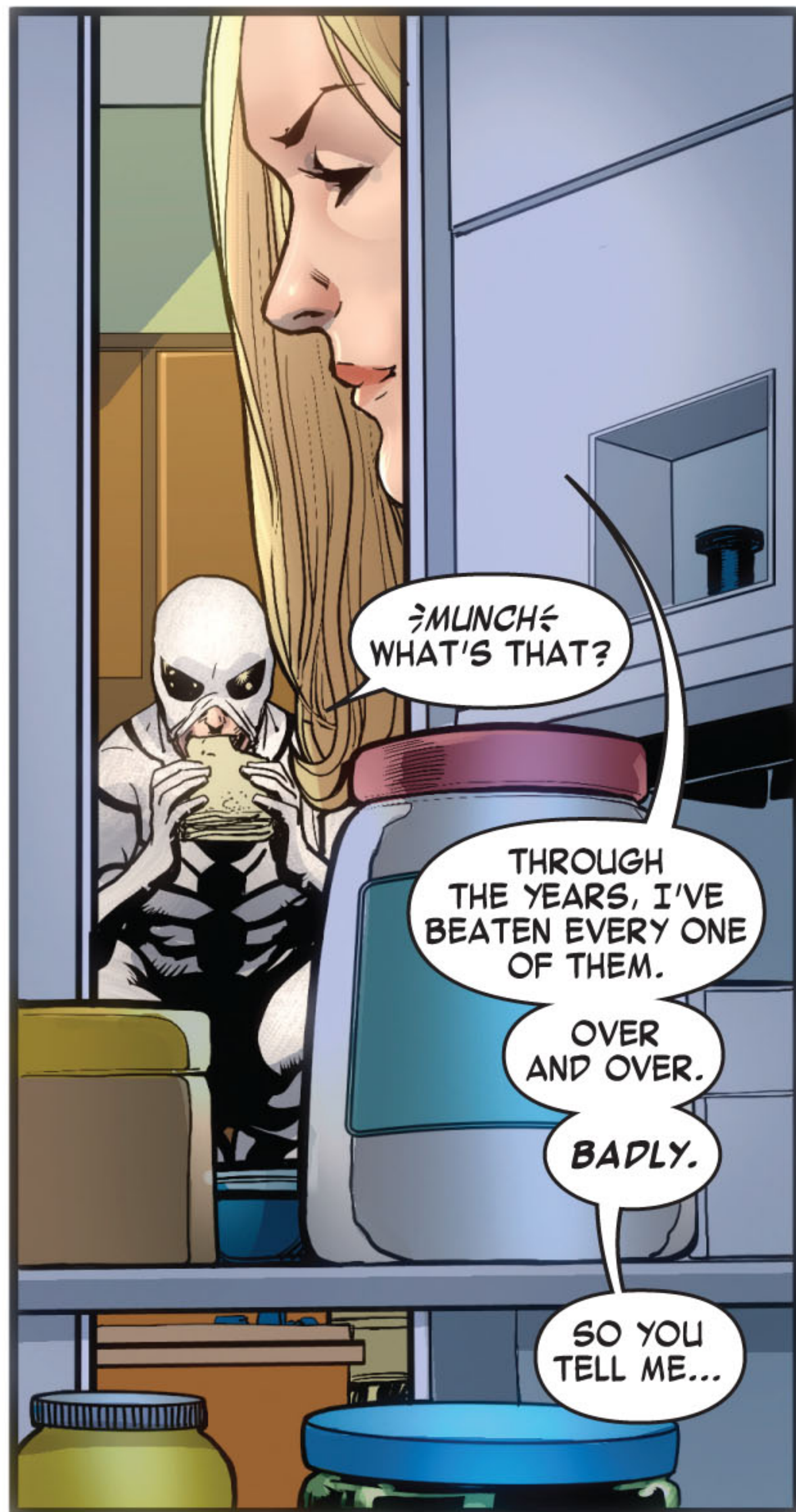
I MEAN, HAVE YOU SEEN WHO ALL WENT IN THAT ROOM WITH REED, HIS OLD MAN, AND VAL?



LET'S SEE... I SAW YOU SHOW UP WITH THE MAD THINKER. I BROUGHT THE WIZARD AND HIS A.I.M. LIEUTENANTS.

I ALSO SAW DIABLO AND THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY... OH, AND WHO COULD FORGET ONE VICTOR VON DOOM.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON?



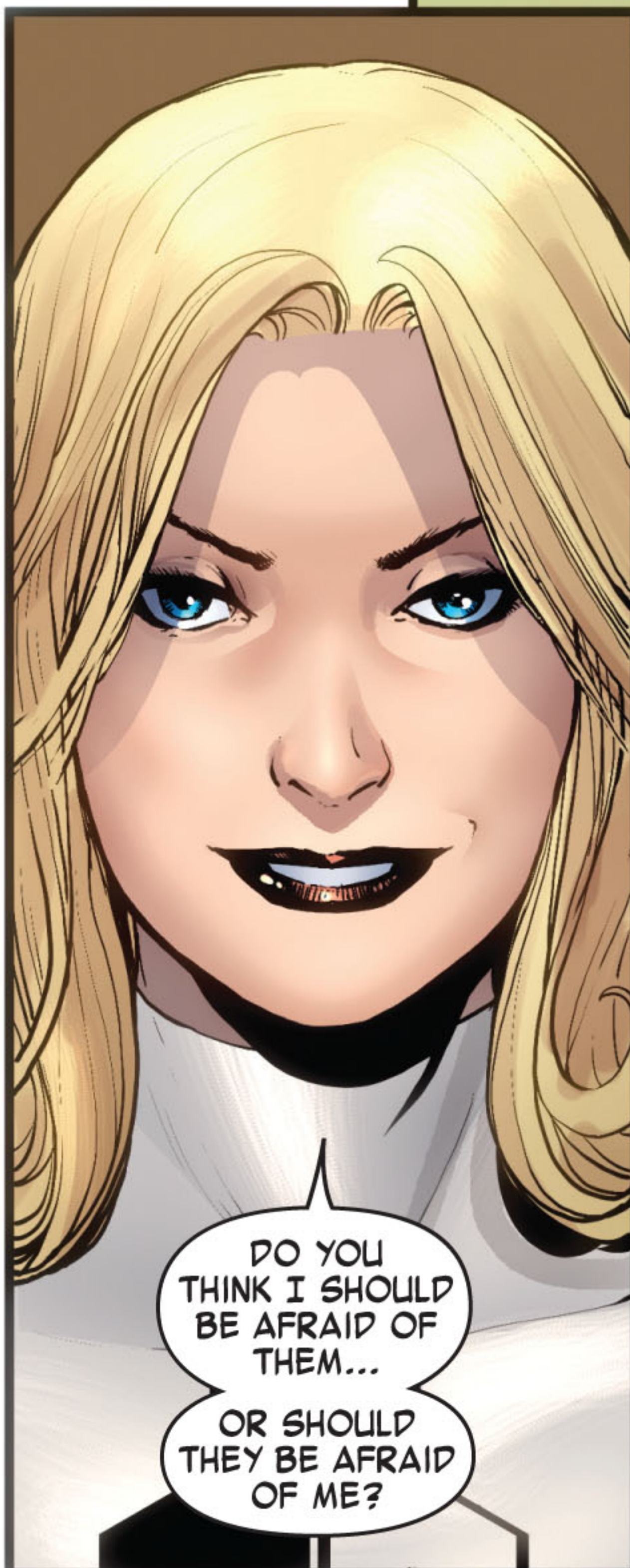
MUNCH? WHAT'S THAT?

THROUGH THE YEARS, I'VE BEATEN EVERY ONE OF THEM.

OVER AND OVER.

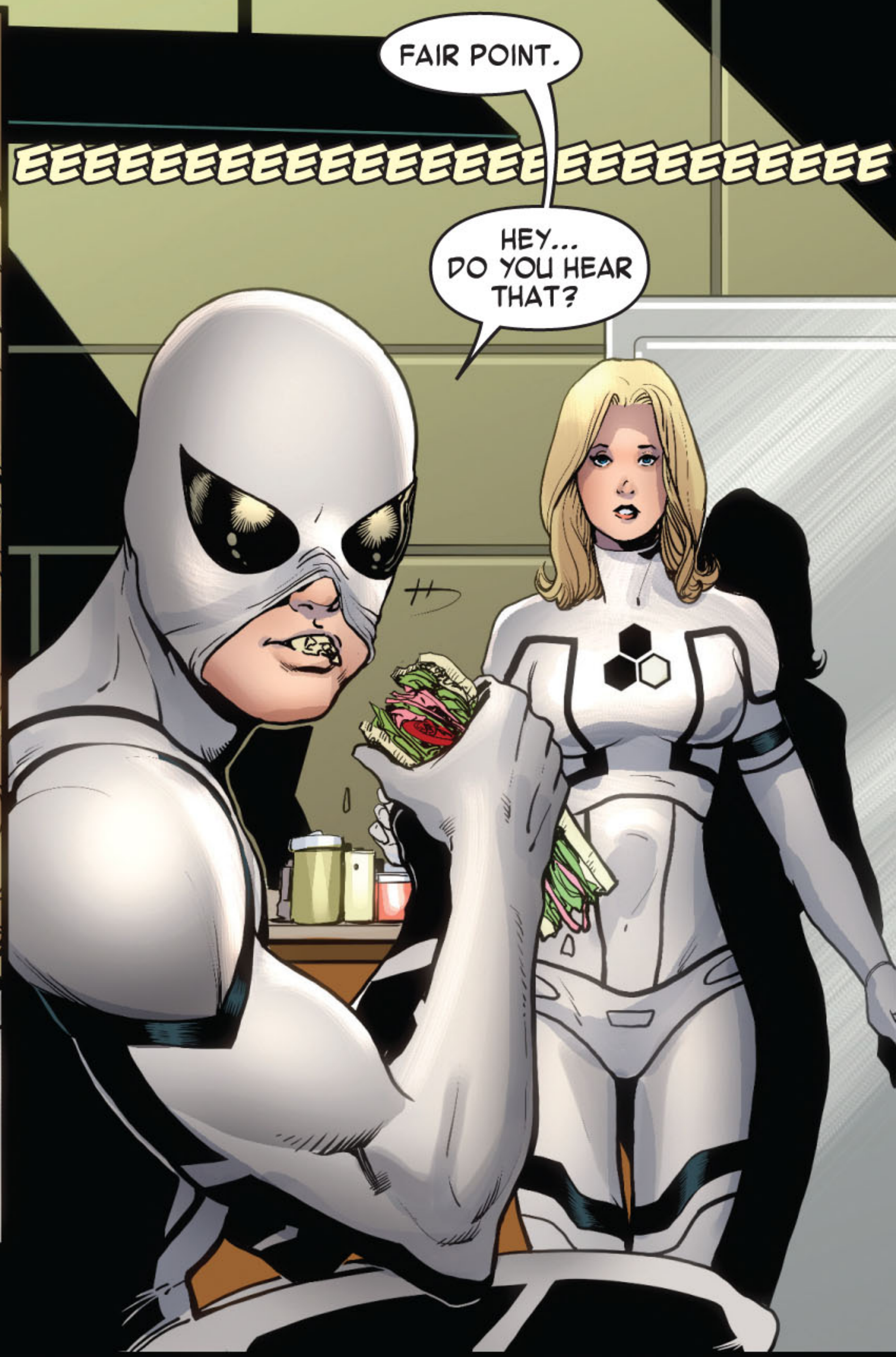
BADLY.

SO YOU TELL ME...



DO YOU THINK I SHOULD BE AFRAID OF THEM...

OR SHOULD THEY BE AFRAID OF ME?



FAIR POINT.

HEY... DO YOU HEAR THAT?

 THE COUNCIL OF DOOM.

**THE
WATCHER**

**THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY**

**NATHANIEL
RICHARDS**

**REED
RICHARDS**

**DOCTOR
DOOM**

**VALERIA
RICHARDS**

**THE MAD
THINKER**

**THE WIZARD'S
A.I.M. LIEUTENANTS**

DIABLO

**THE
WIZARD**

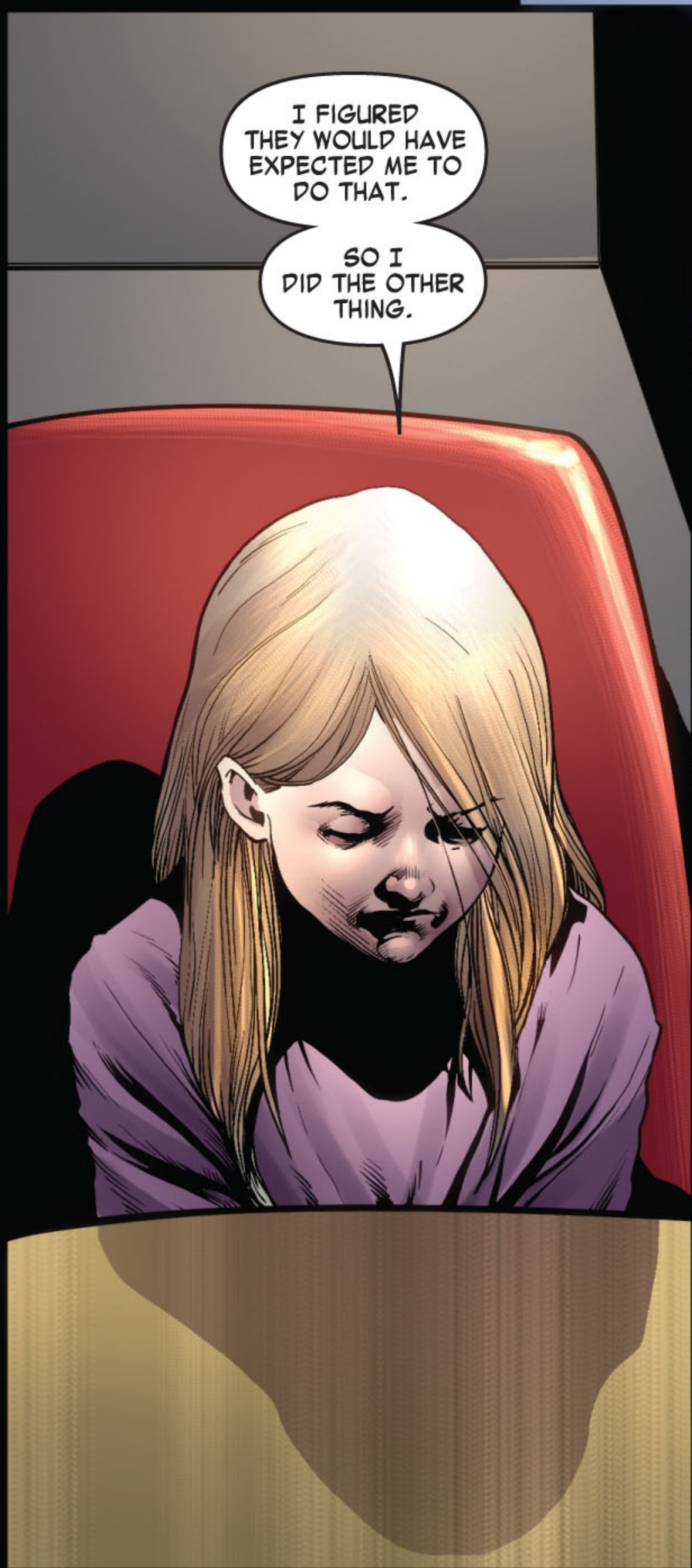
THIS
IS...

THIS IS A
DISASTER.

I'M
SORRY, DAD.
I...

VAL. *STOP.*
DON'T ACT LIKE
THAT.

DON'T ACT
LIKE THE FIRST
THING YOU DID WASN'T
TRYING TO COVER UP YOUR
MISTAKE INSTEAD OF
TELLING ME WHAT HAD
HAPPENED.



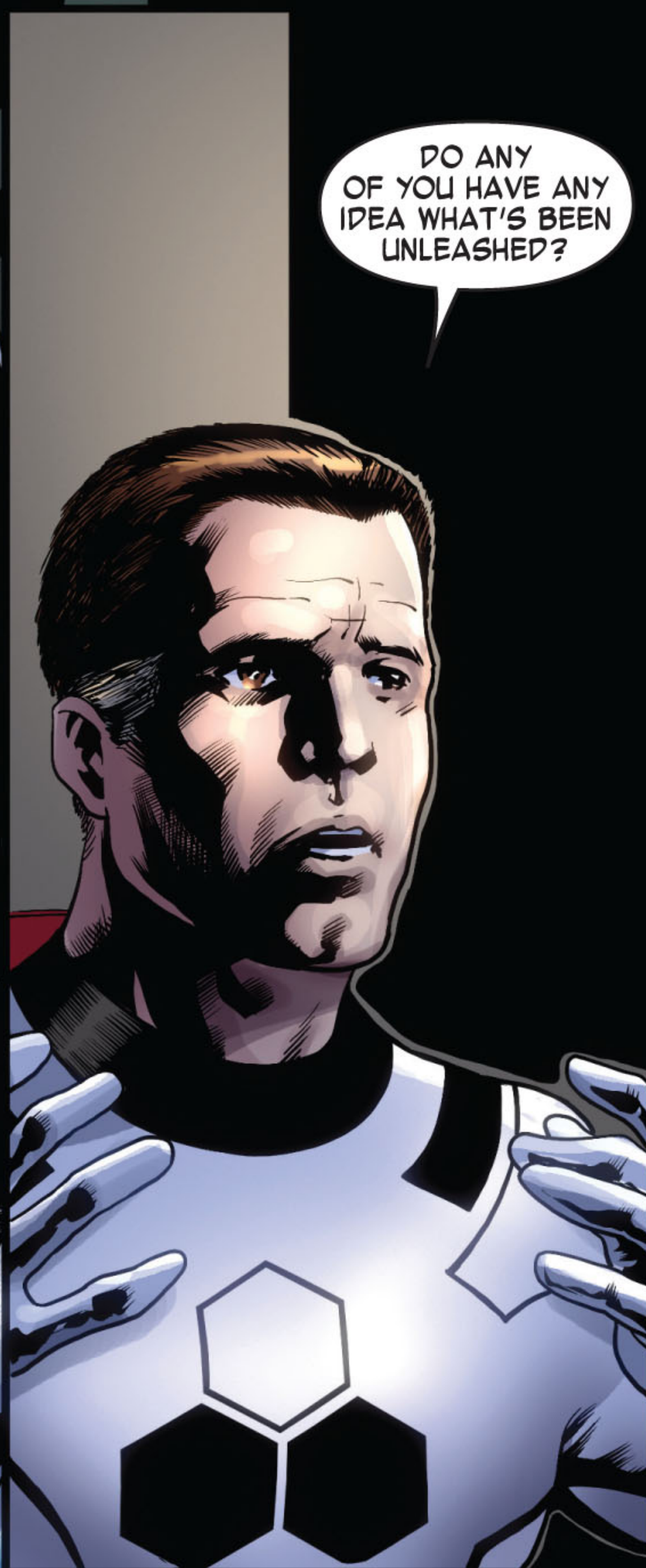
I FIGURED
THEY WOULD HAVE
EXPECTED ME TO
DO THAT.

SO I
DID THE OTHER
THING.

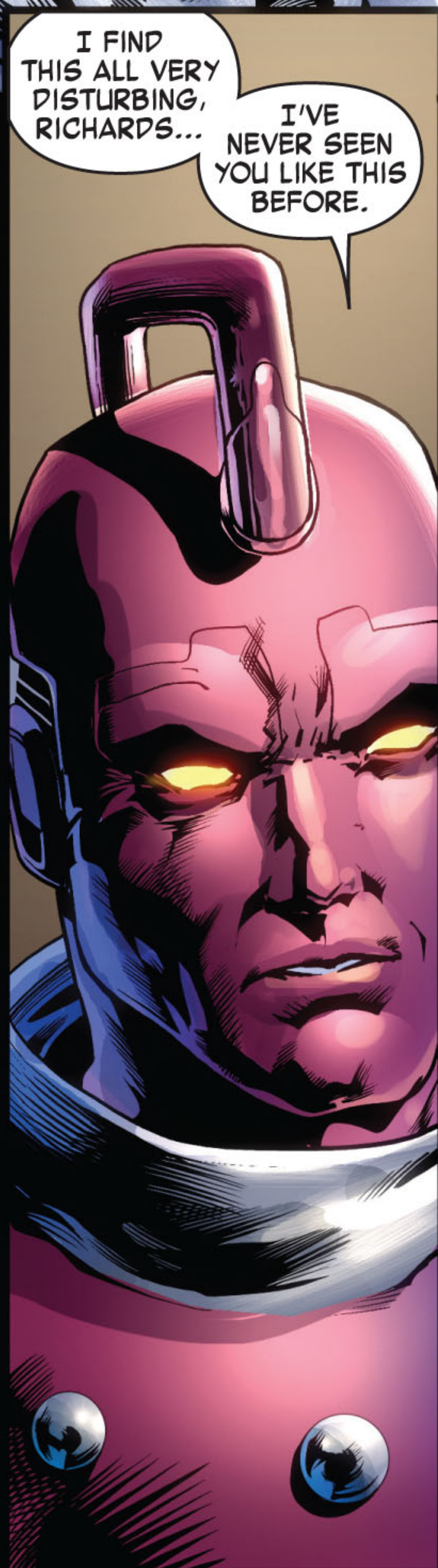


YES.

THE
BETTER
THING.



DO ANY
OF YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT'S BEEN
UNLEASHED?



I FIND
THIS ALL VERY
DISTURBING,
RICHARDS...

I'VE
NEVER SEEN
YOU LIKE THIS
BEFORE.



YES,
SOMEONE'S
PUT THE FEAR
OF GOD IN
HIM.

WUH-WUH-
WUH-WHAT WOULD
YOU SUGGEST AS OUR
FIRST COURSE OF
ACTION, DOCTOR
RICHARDS?



WHY ARE YOU ASKING HIM, MAN OF SCIENCE?

IS THAT NOT WHY WE HAVE CONVENED HERE?



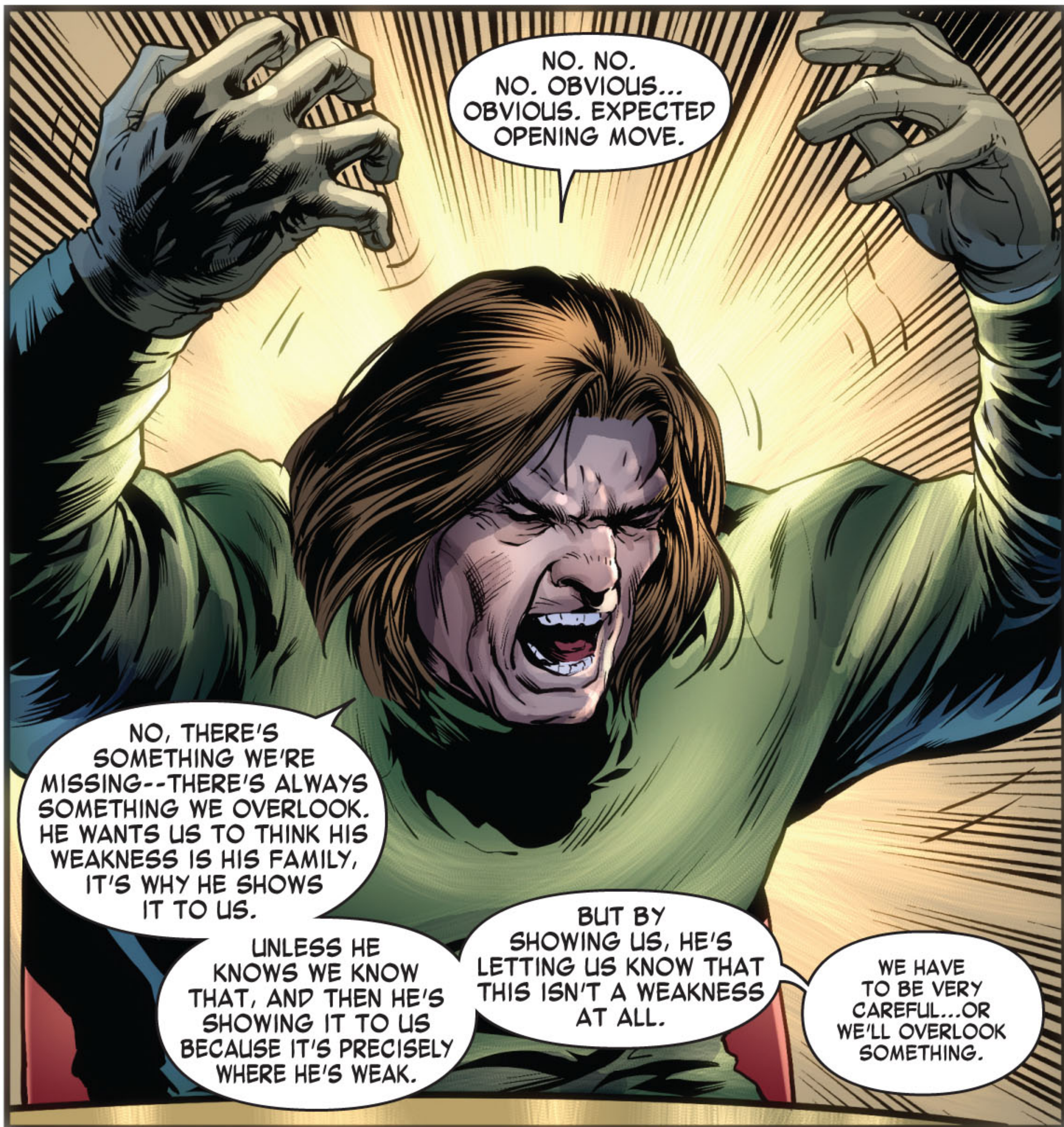
YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION?



OF COURSE... WE CONCENTRATE ON HIS WEAKNESSES.

MAYBE WE FIND OUT WHO THEIR SUSANS ARE, MAYBE WE FIND OUT WHAT THEY LOVE AND TAKE IT FROM THEM--USE IT TO BARGAIN WITH THEM, MAKE THEM OUR POSSESSIONS.

MAYBE WE TAKE THEIR CHILDREN.



NO. NO. NO. OBVIOUS... OBVIOUS. EXPECTED OPENING MOVE.

NO, THERE'S SOMETHING WE'RE MISSING--THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WE OVERLOOK. HE WANTS US TO THINK HIS WEAKNESS IS HIS FAMILY, IT'S WHY HE SHOWS IT TO US.

UNLESS HE KNOWS WE KNOW THAT, AND THEN HE'S SHOWING IT TO US BECAUSE IT'S PRECISELY WHERE HE'S WEAK.

BUT BY SHOWING US, HE'S LETTING US KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T A WEAKNESS AT ALL.

WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL...OR WE'LL OVERLOOK SOMETHING.



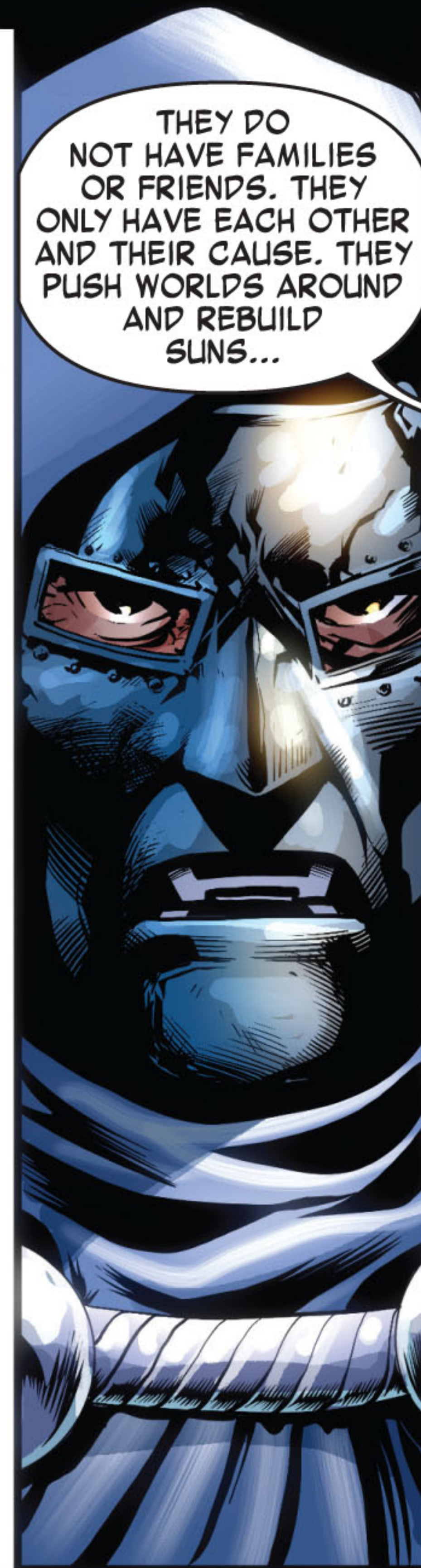
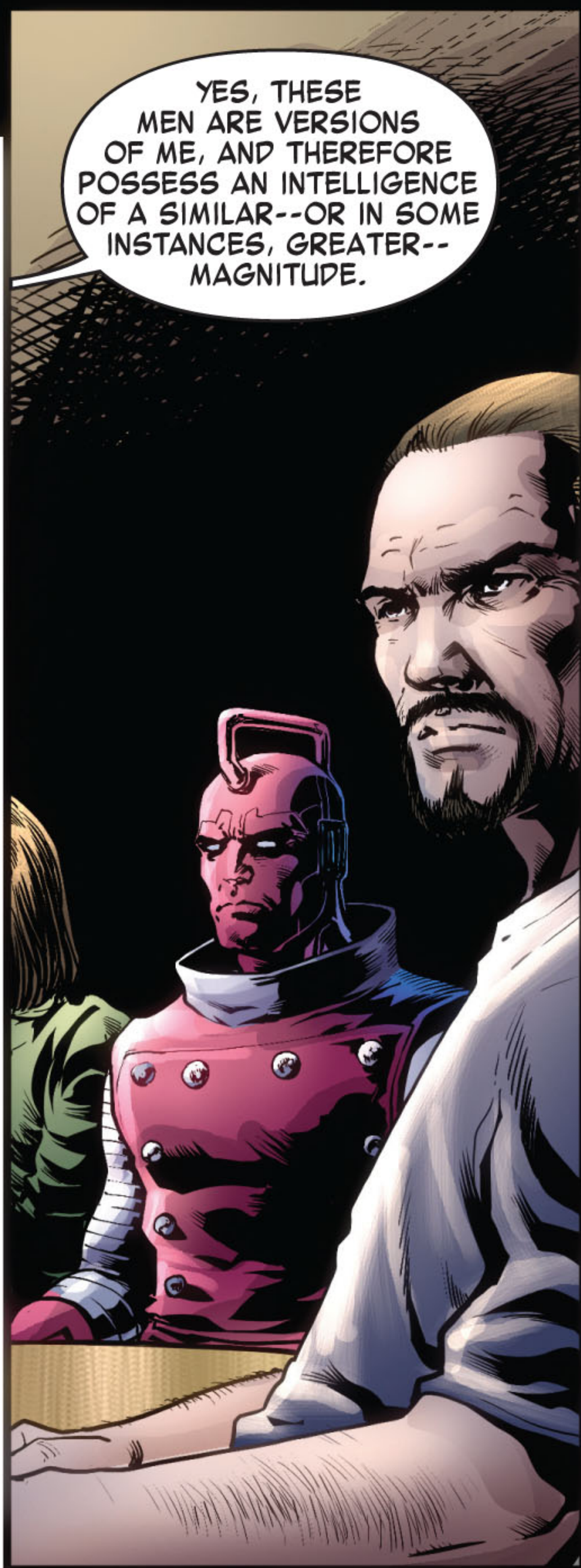
HMMMMM. IT SEEMS THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS...TWO CHOICES.

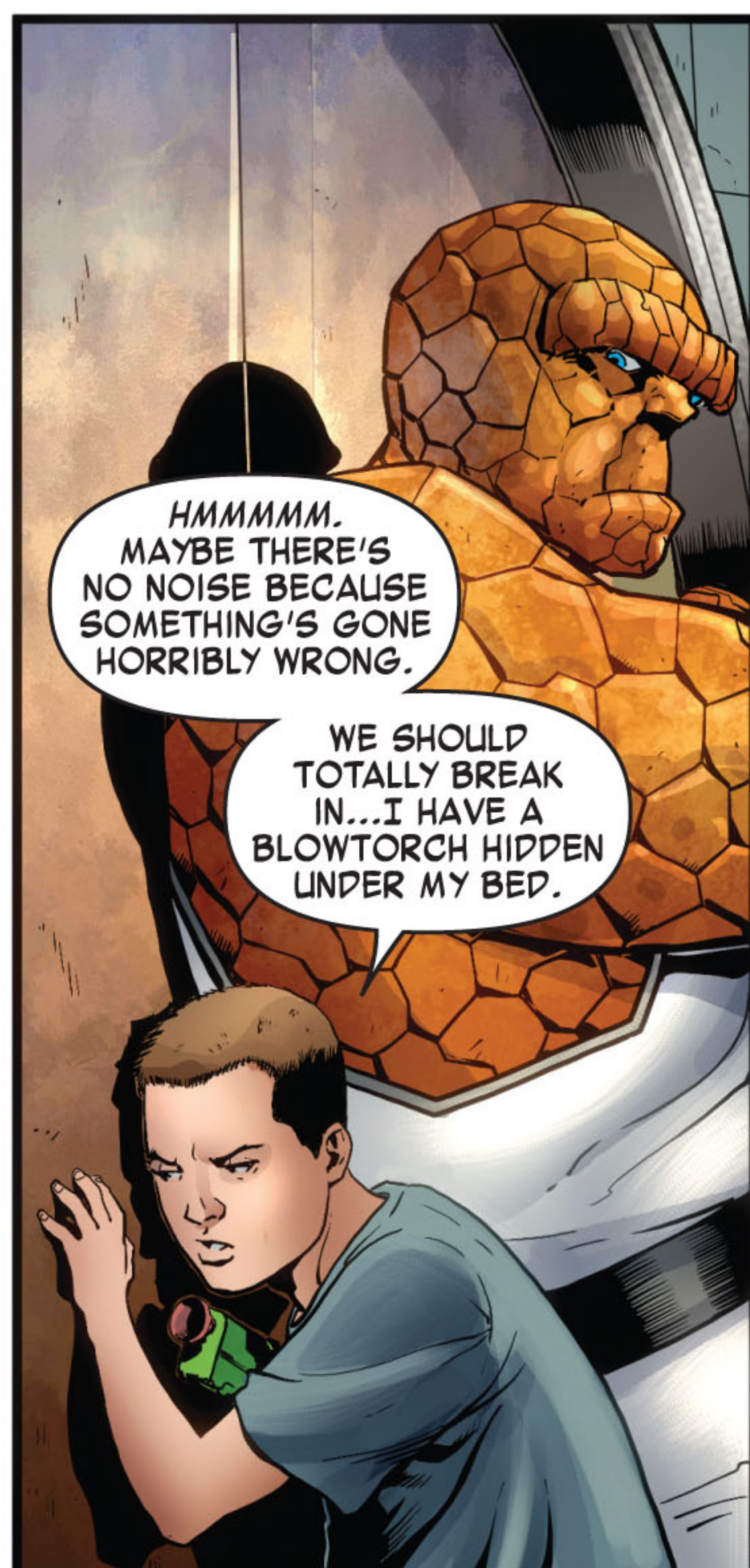
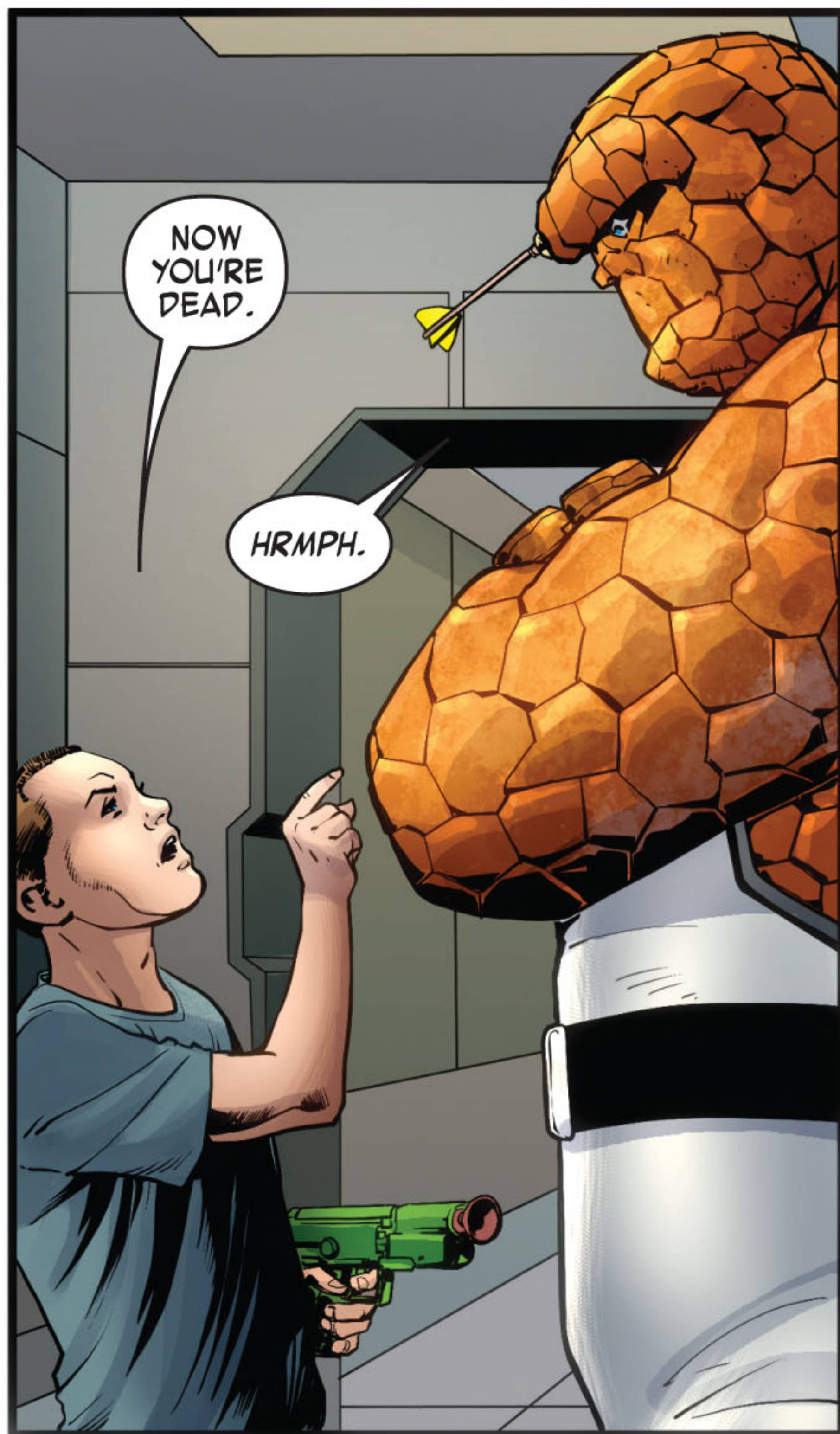
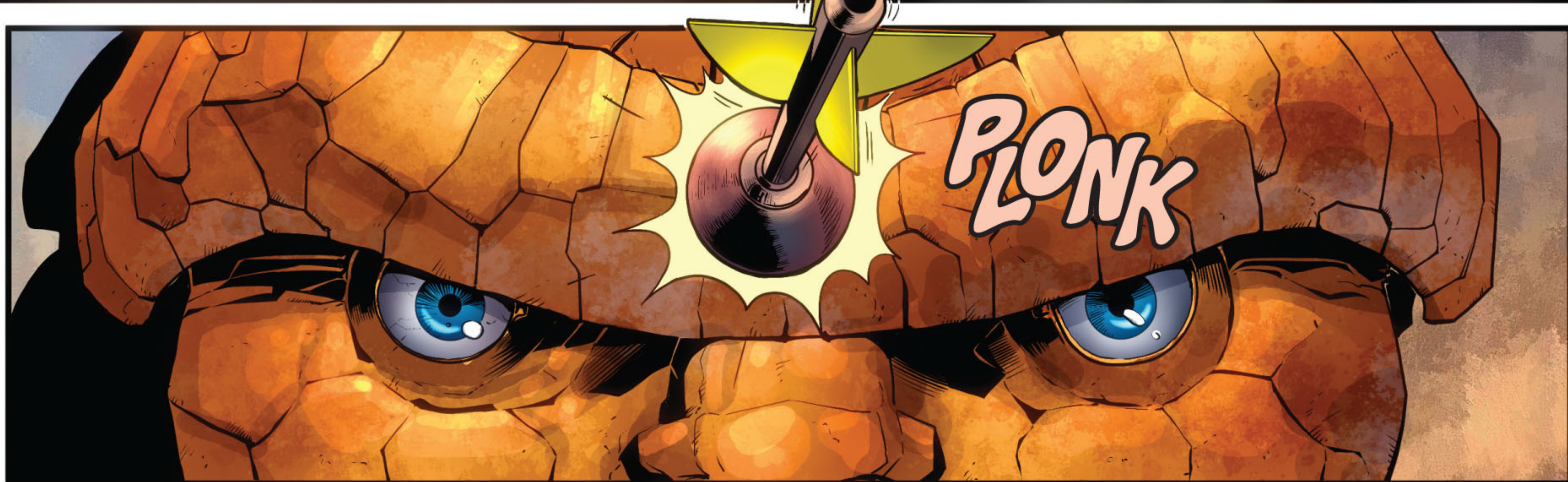
TWO WOMEN CAME BEFORE KING SOLOMON AND CLAIMED A CHILD AS THEIR OWN. HE PROPOSED TO CUT THE BABY IN HALF, GIVING ONE PART TO EACH MOTHER.

SO, LET'S DO THAT!

LET'S CUT ALL THE BABIES IN HALF!

STOP!



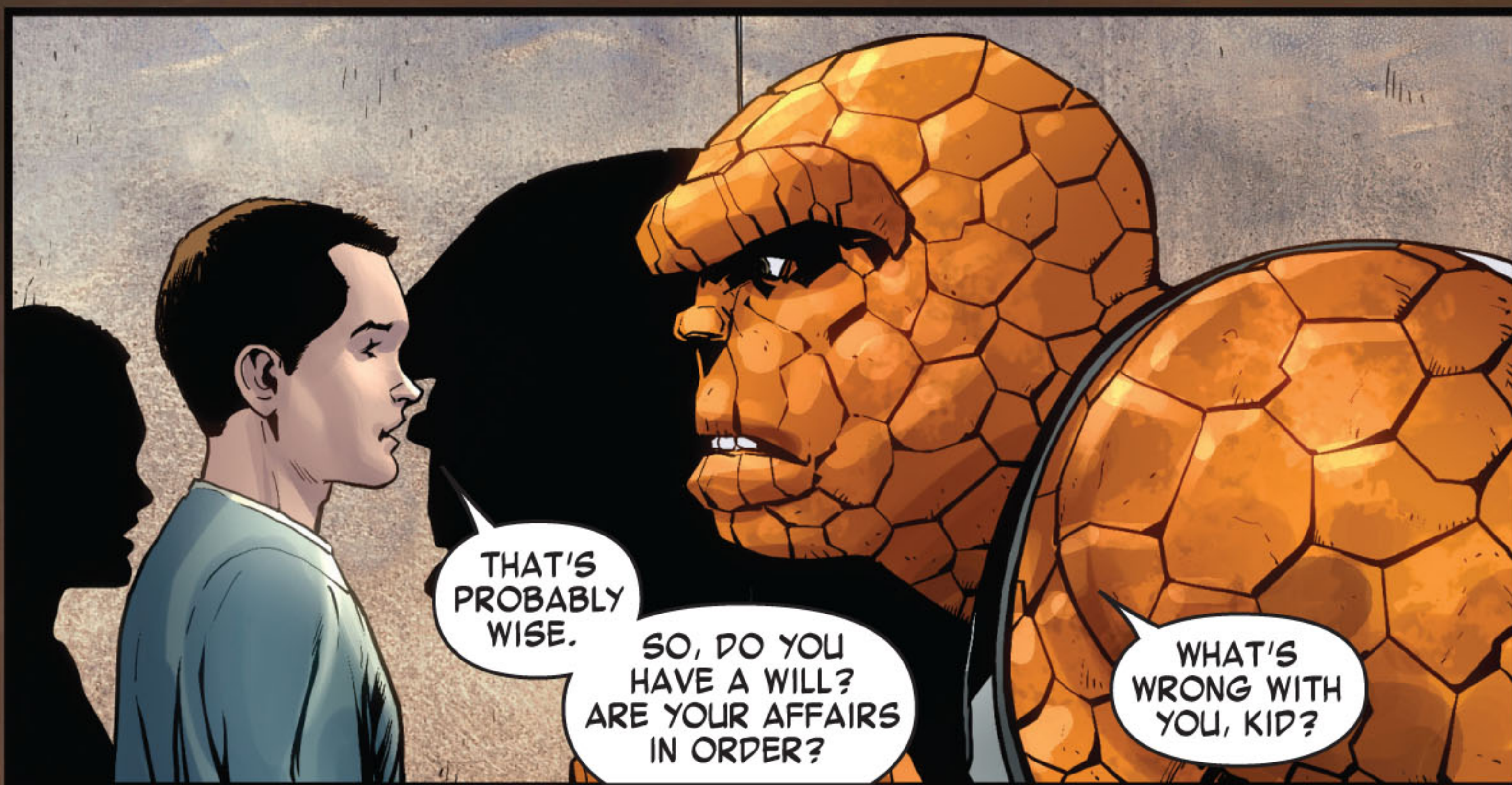




WHY DO YOU THINK SOMETHING BAD'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

OF COURSE YOU DO.

MAYBE I'M BEGINNIN' TO EXPECT IT.



THAT'S PROBABLY WISE.

SO, DO YOU HAVE A WILL? ARE YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER?

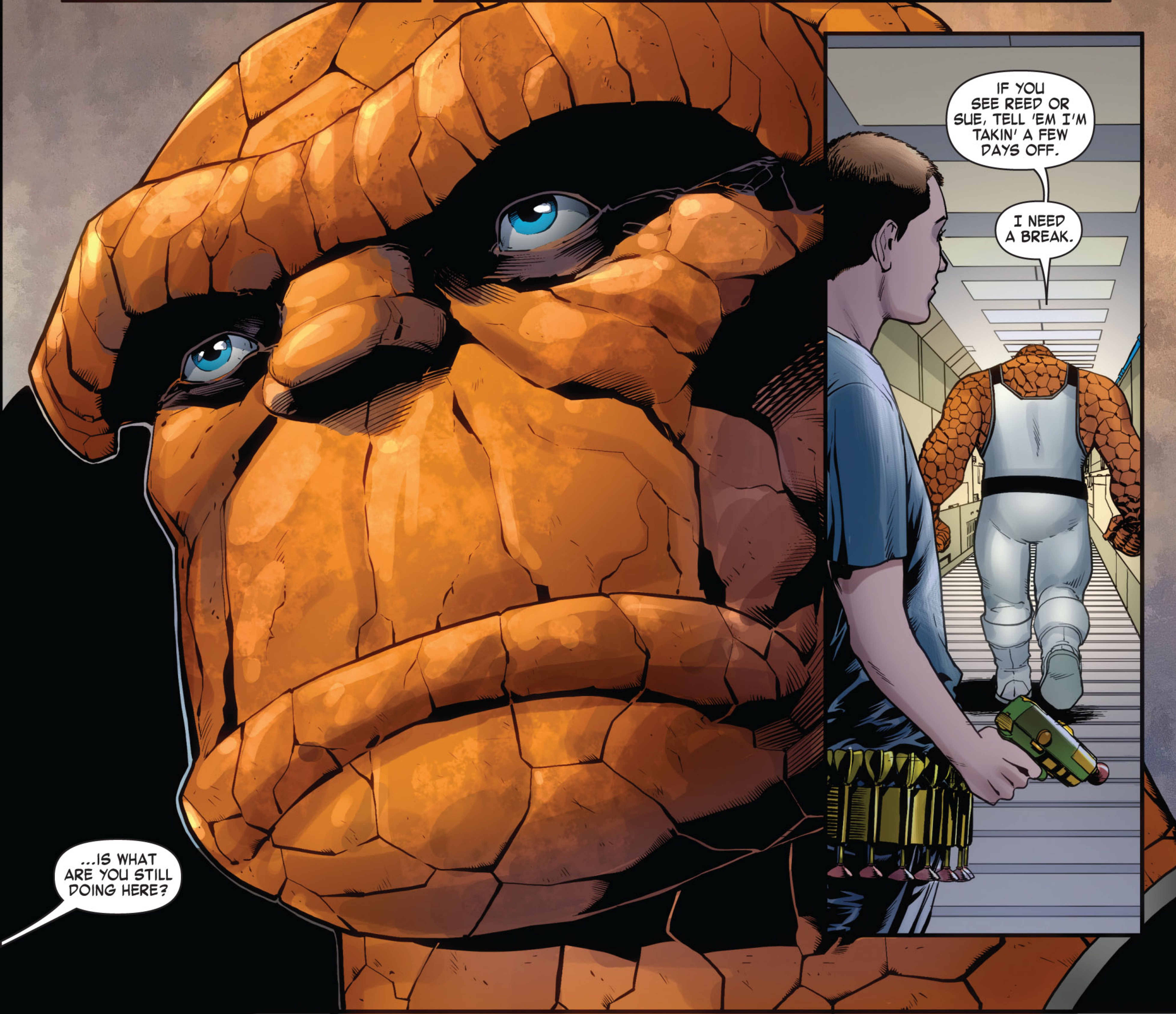
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KID?



OH, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. HAVE YOU SEEN WHO'S IN THAT ROOM?

THIS IS REALLY TURNING INTO MY KIND OF PLACE.

I THINK THE BETTER QUESTION, MR. MONSTERFACE...

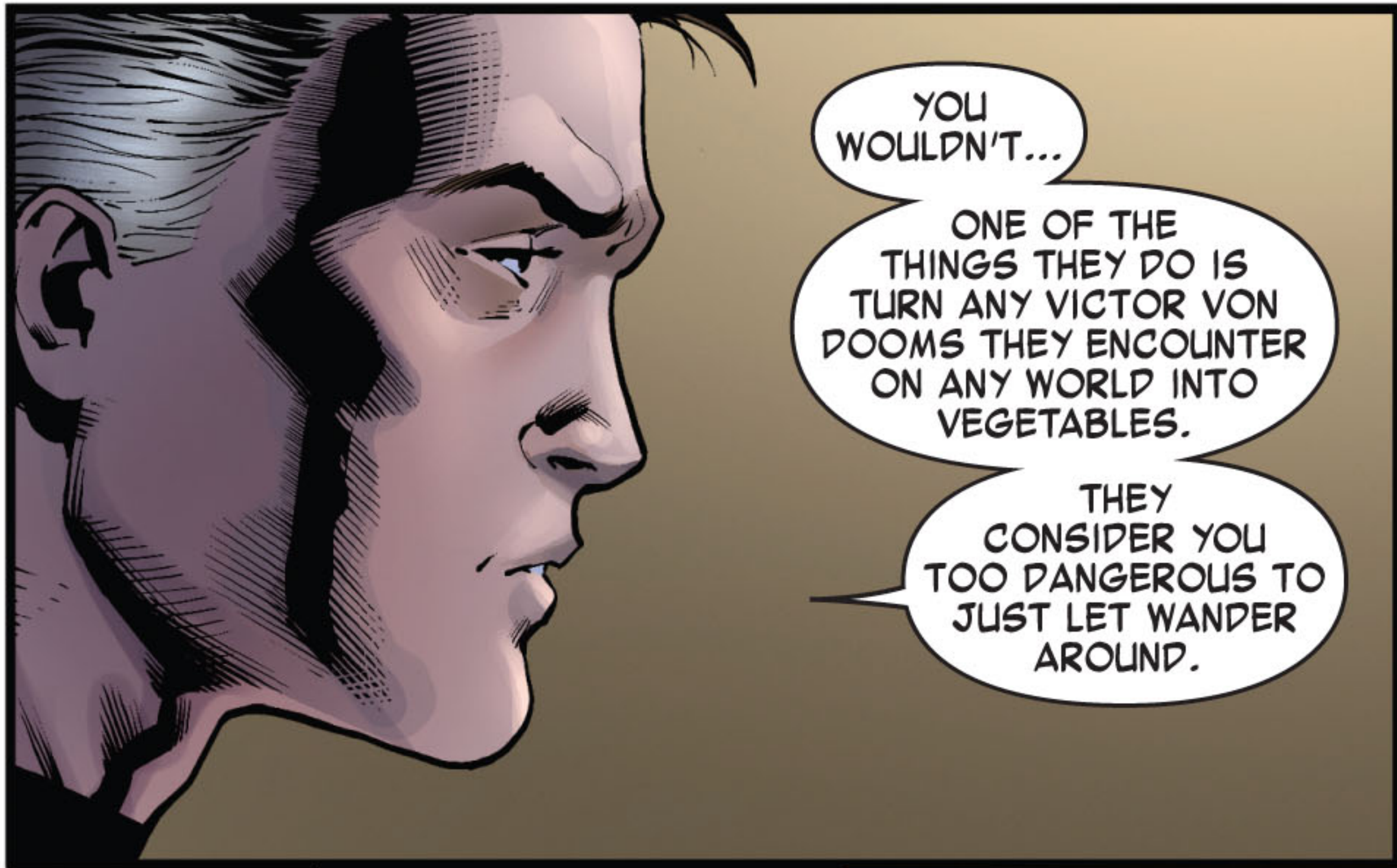
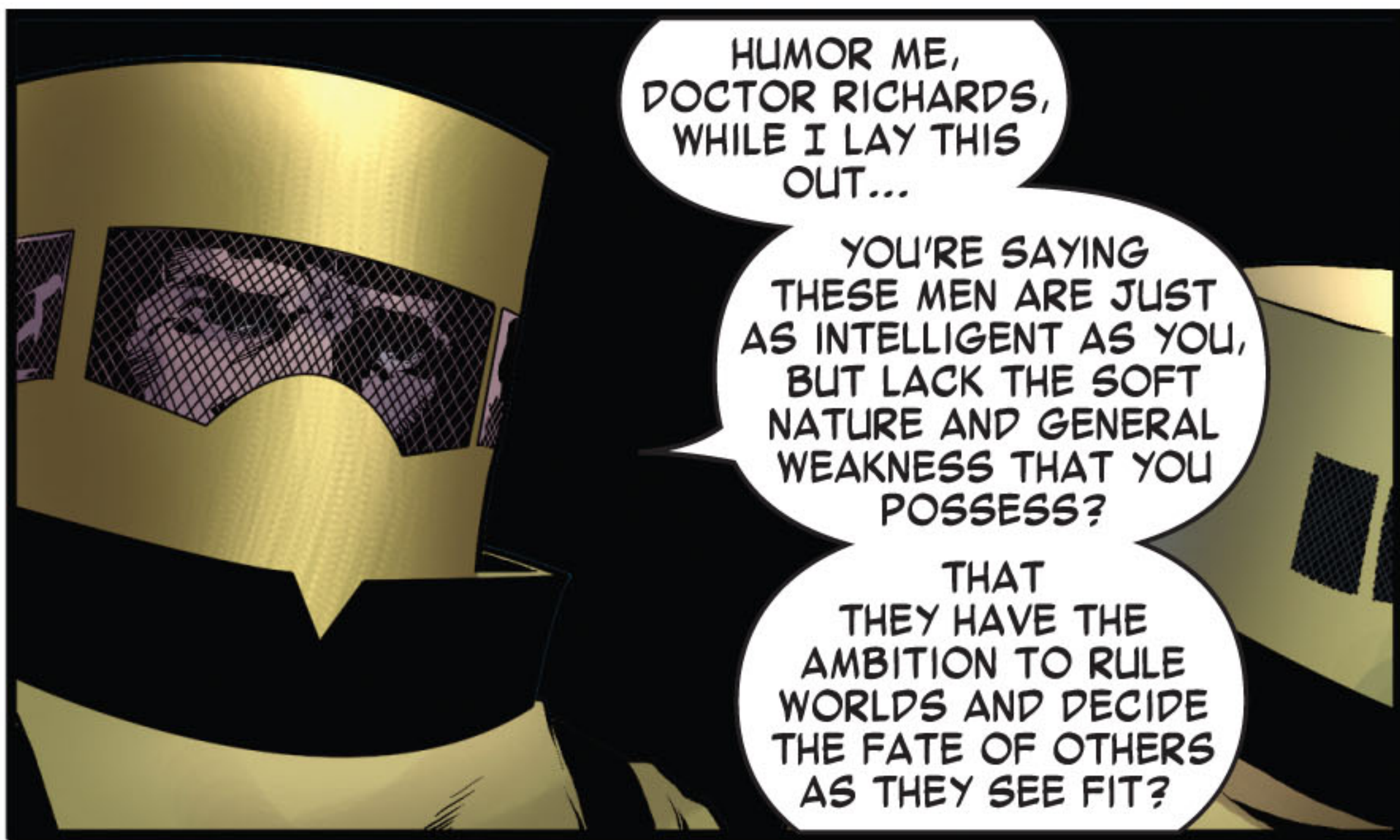


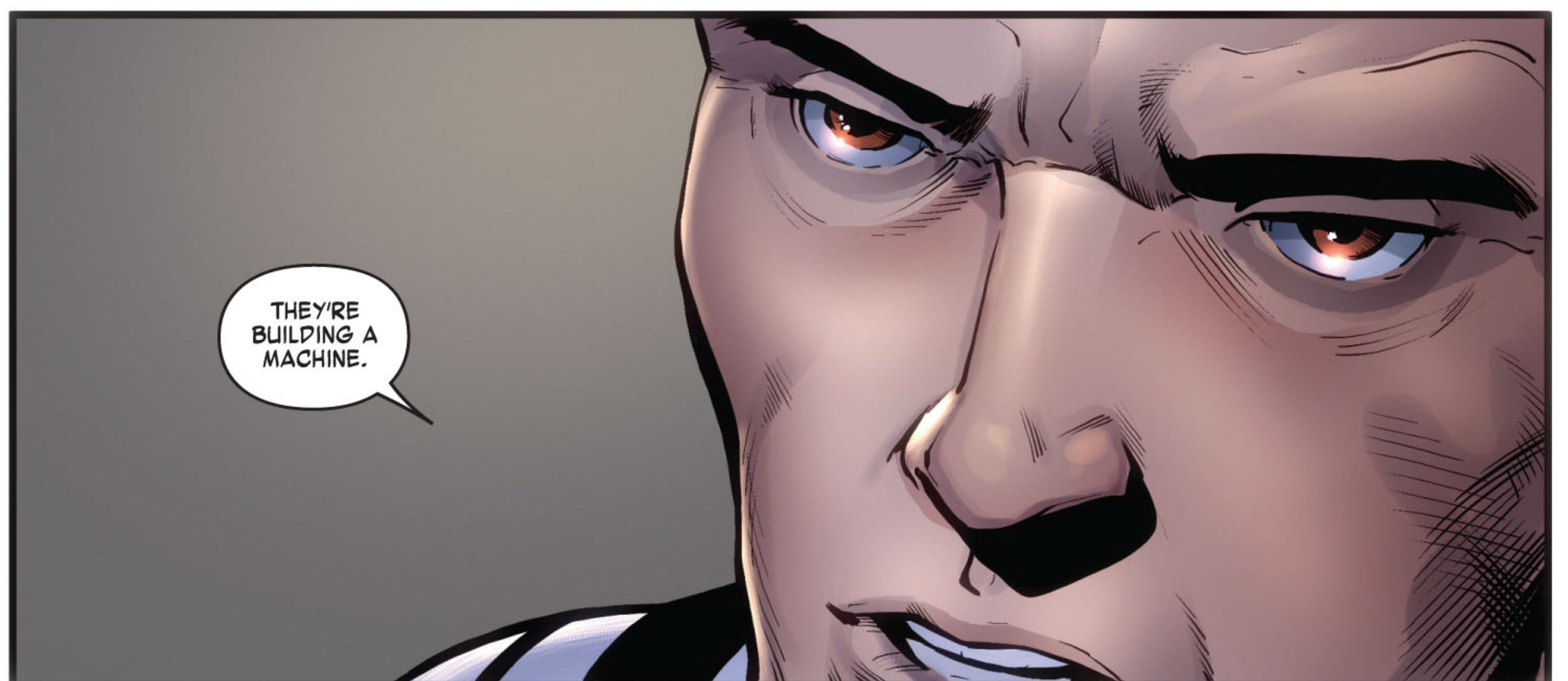
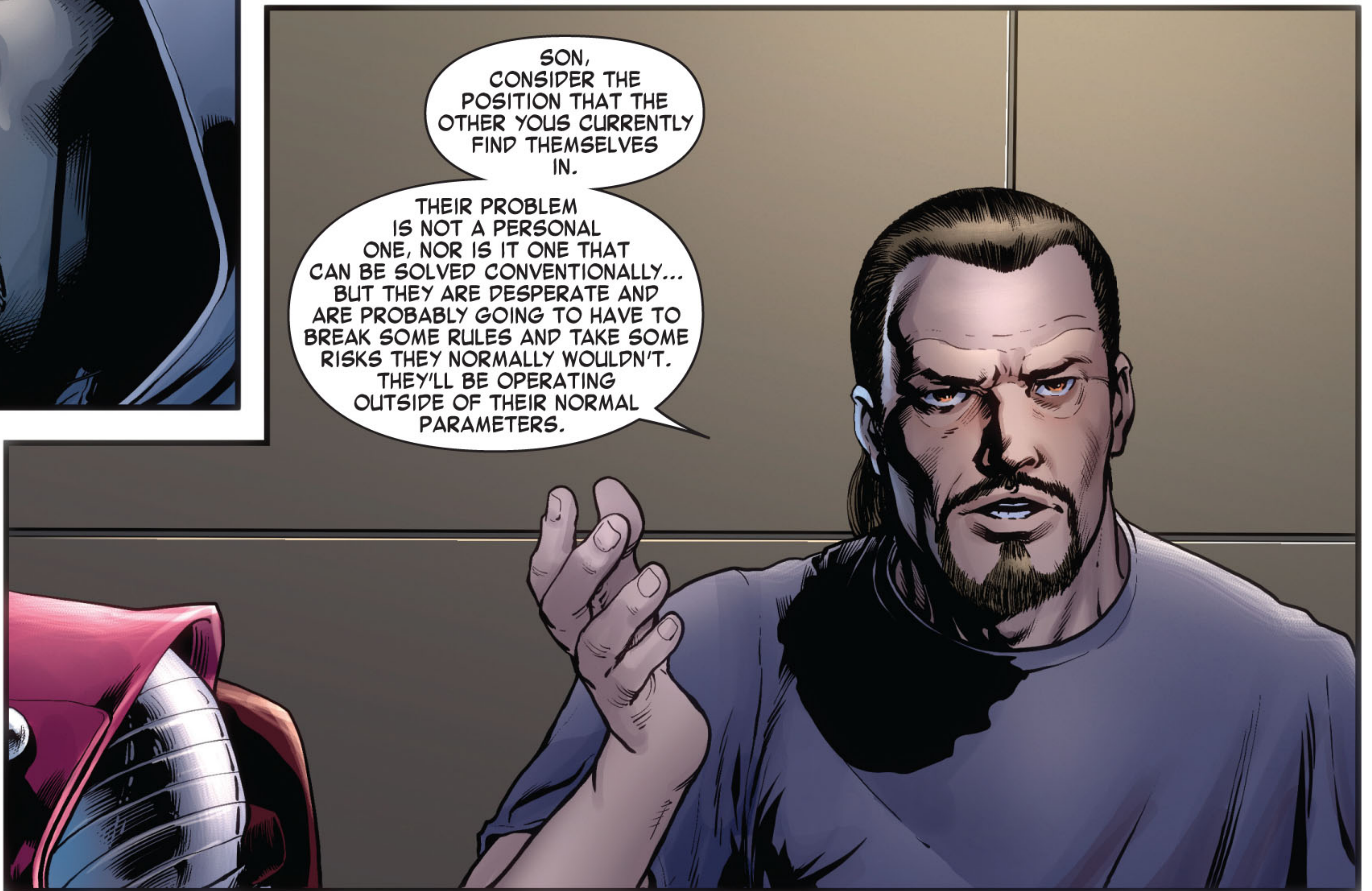
...IS WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?

IF YOU SEE REED OR SUE, TELL 'EM I'M TAKIN' A FEW DAYS OFF.

I NEED A BREAK.

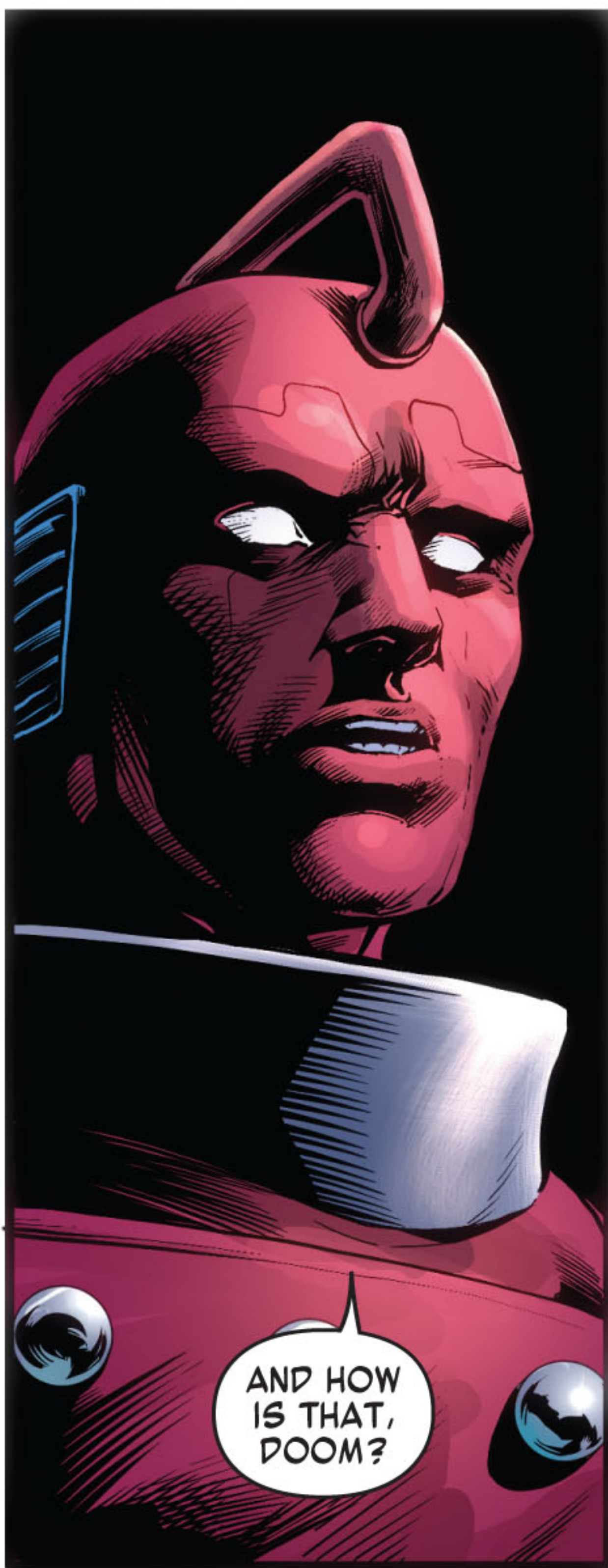








AH.
THEN WE HAVE
THEM.

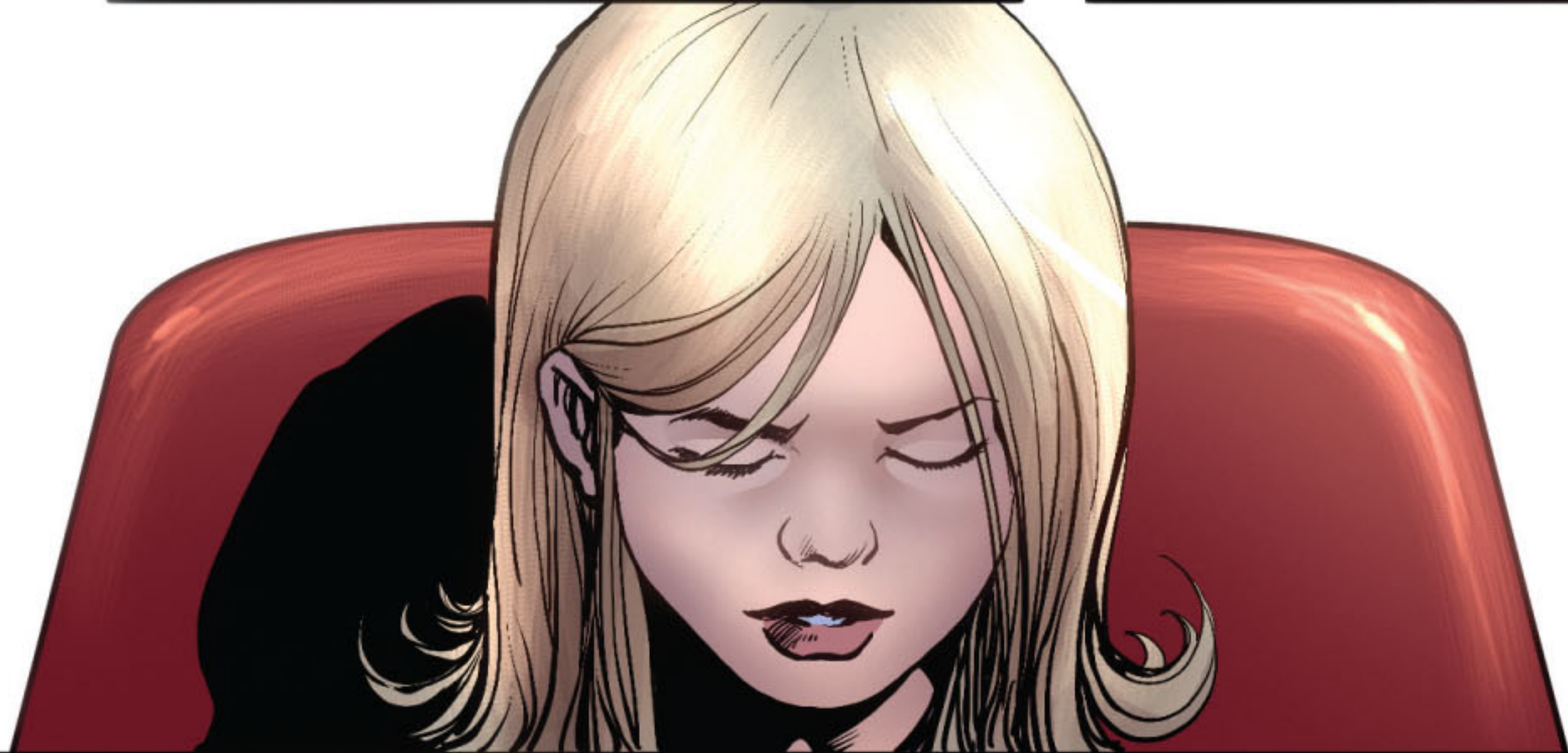


AND HOW
IS THAT,
DOOM?



BECAUSE
WE KNOW WHERE
THEY ARE GOING
TO BE...

BECAUSE
SOMEONE HERE
KNOWS EXACTLY
WHAT THEY ARE
GOING TO
BUILD.

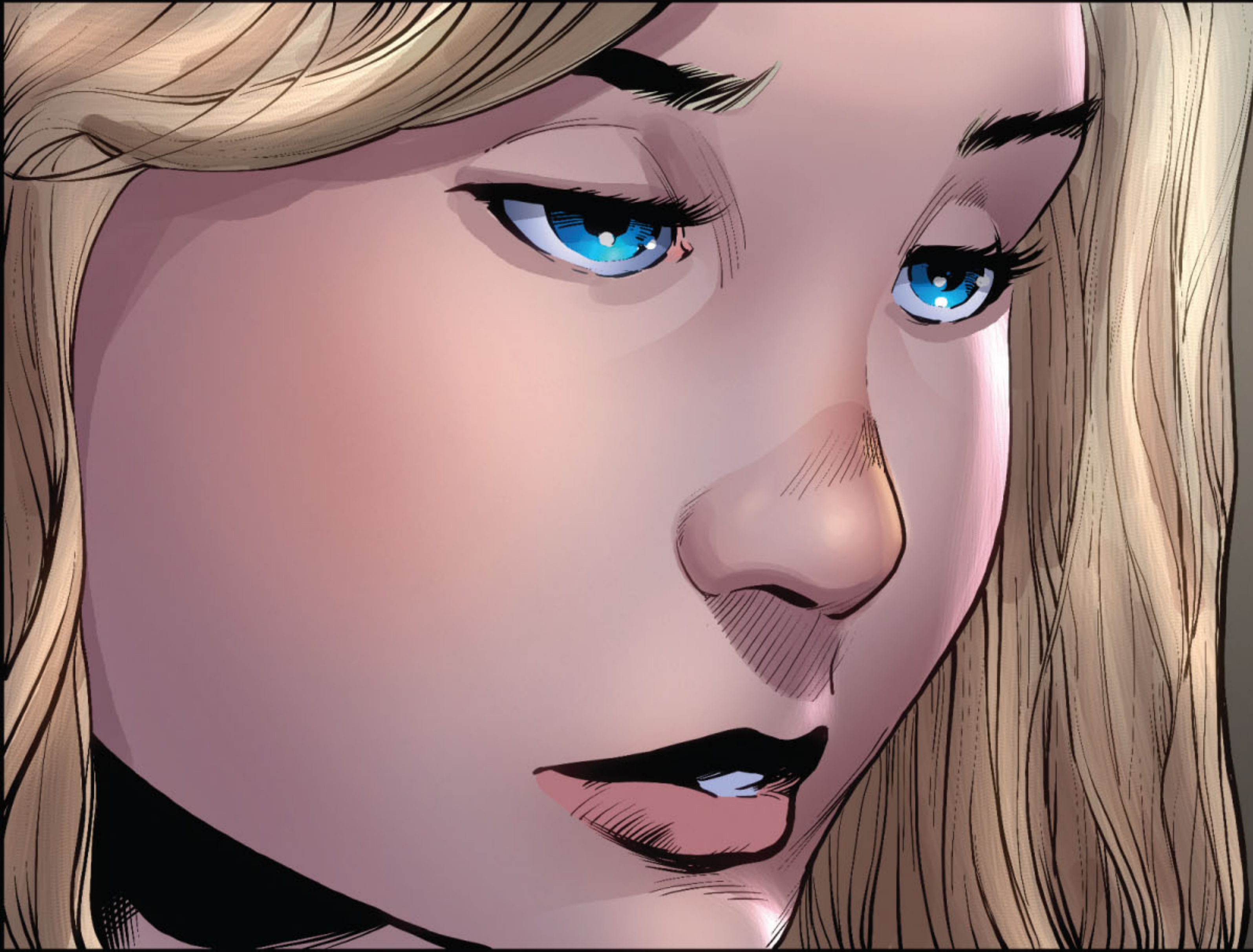


THEY
CALL IT SOL'S
ANVIL.



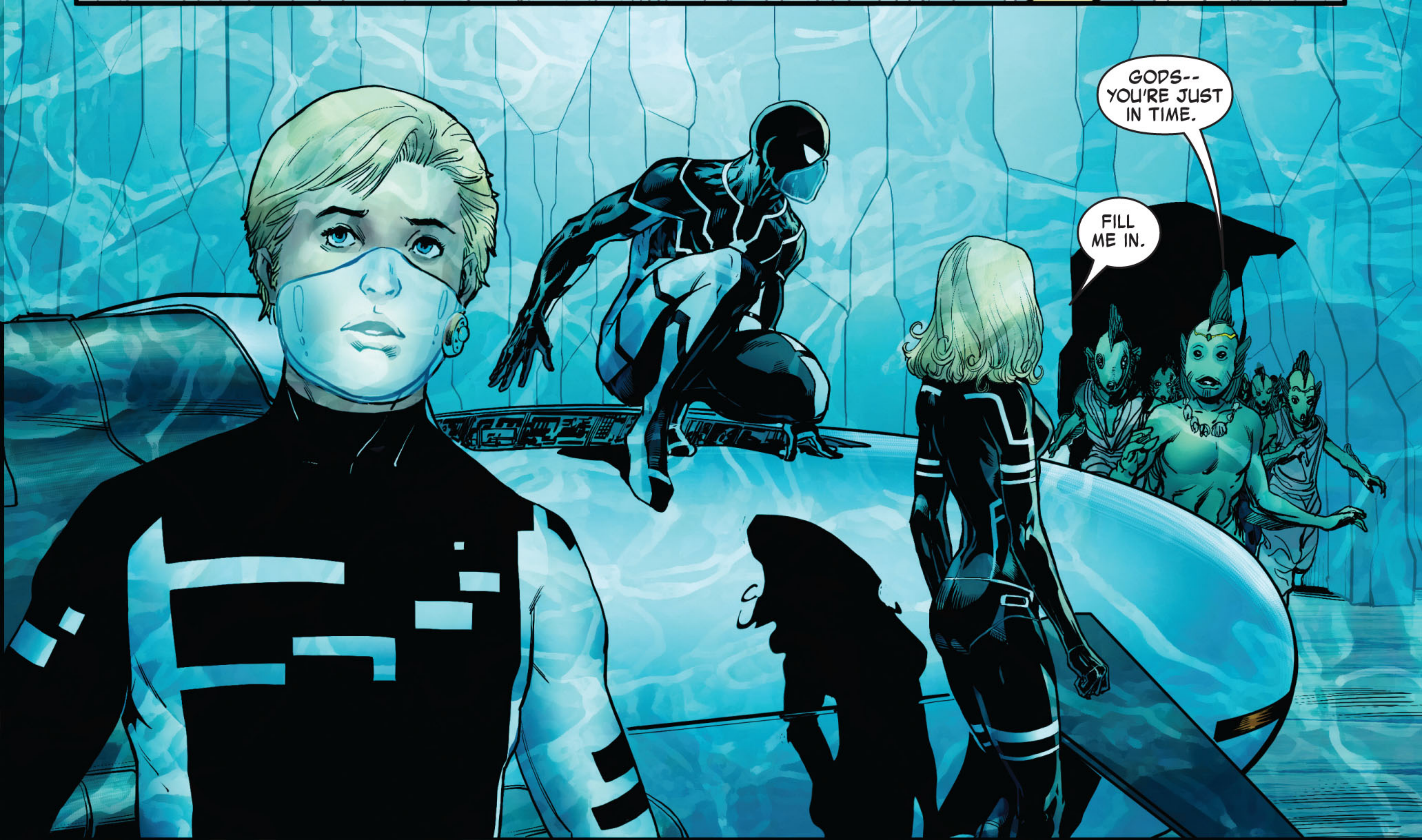
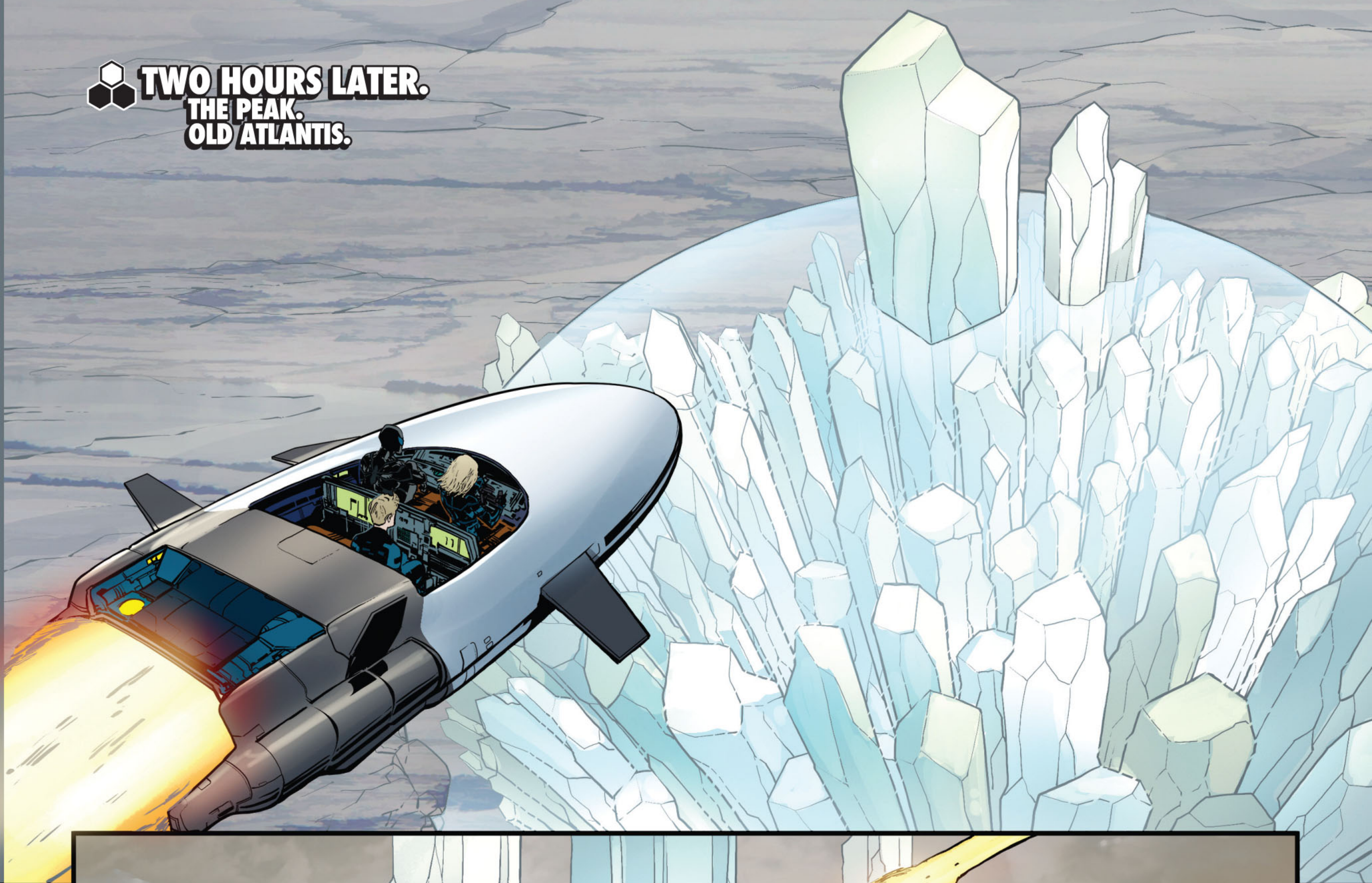
IT HAS
SOMETHING TO DO
WITH A MACHINE BURIED
ON THE MOON, AND
THERE'S A BIT WITH THE
NEGATIVE ZONE...

AND
SOME WAY TO USE
THE ASCENSION ENGINE
IN THE FOREVER CITY...
AND THEN THEY NEED A
THERMAL VENT...



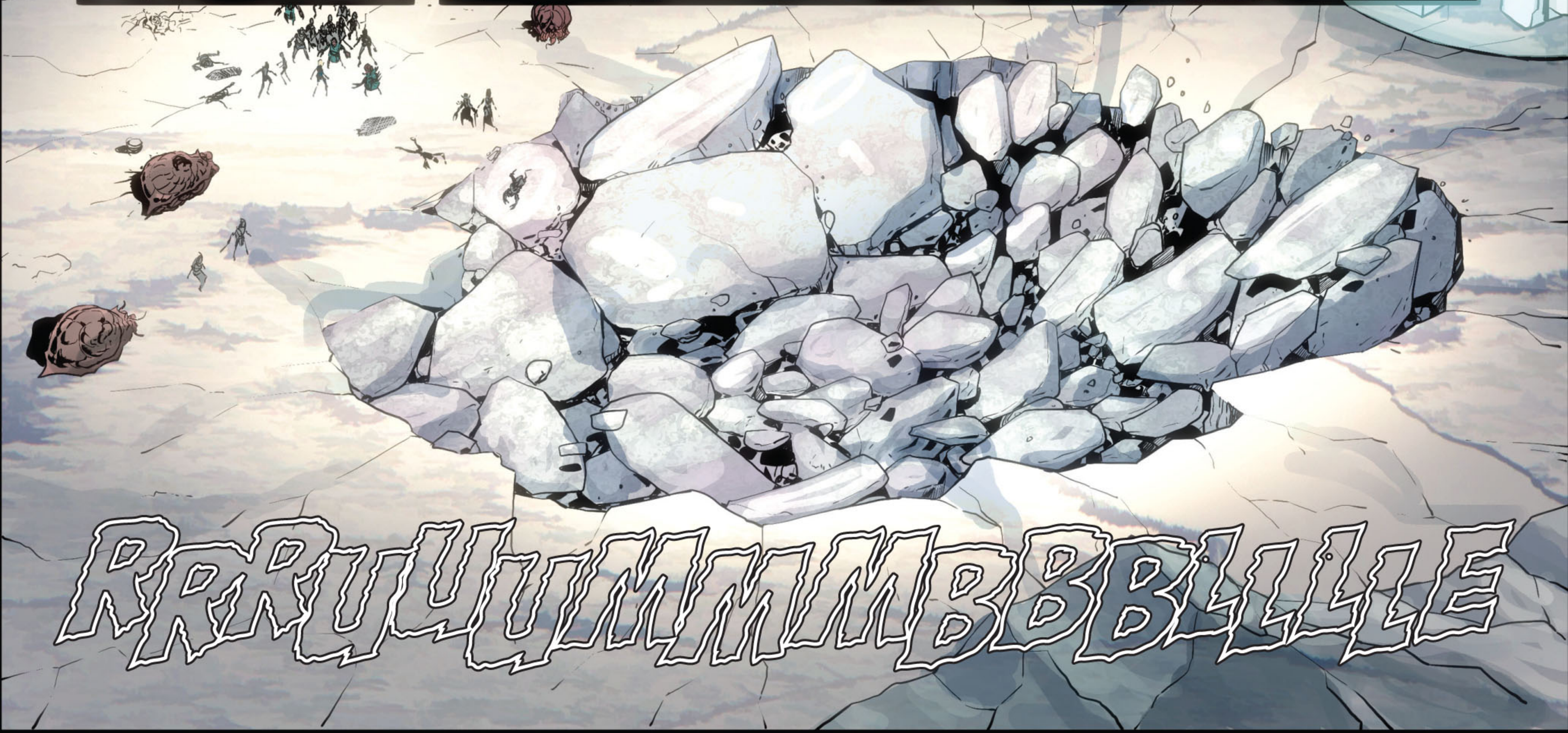
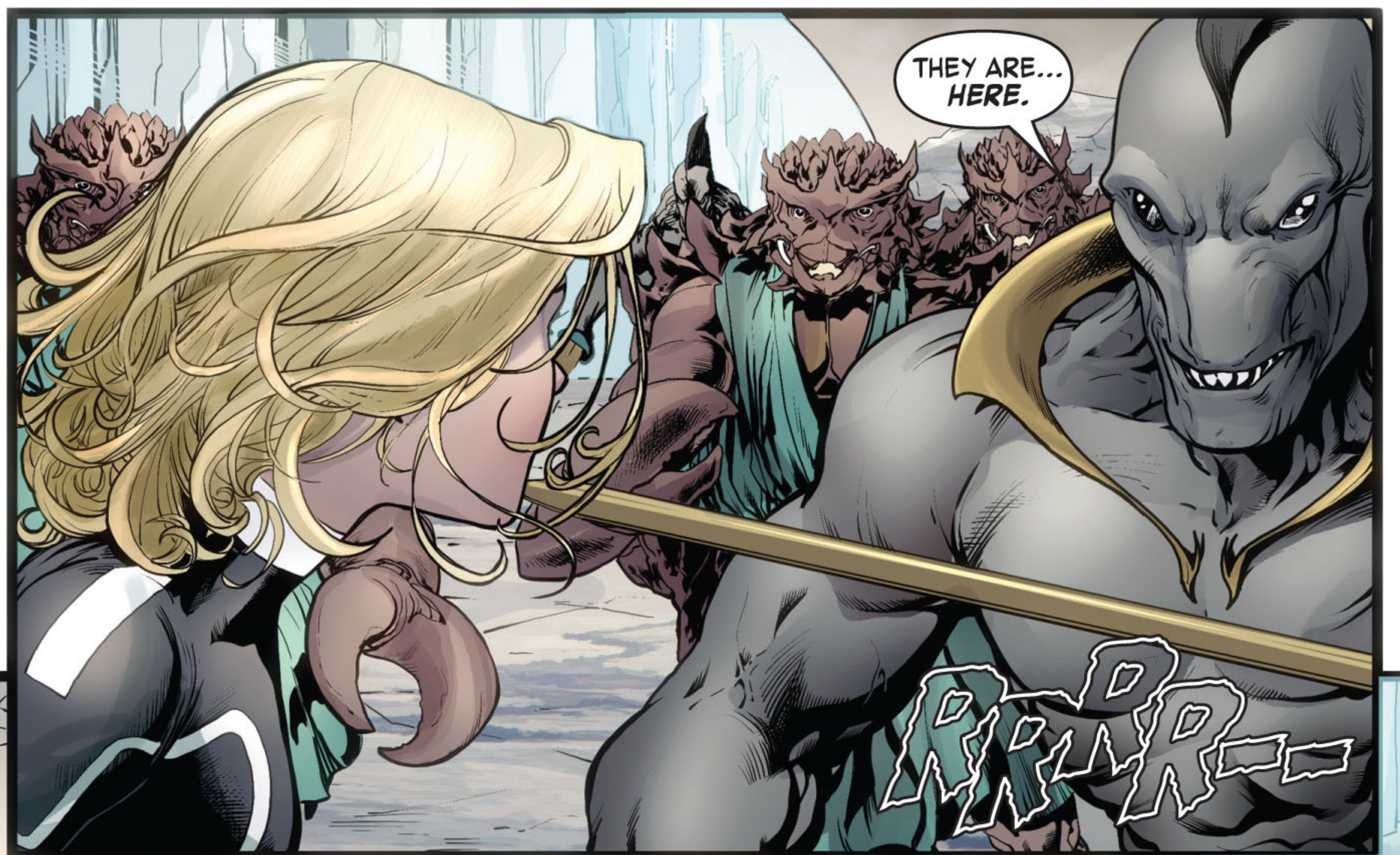
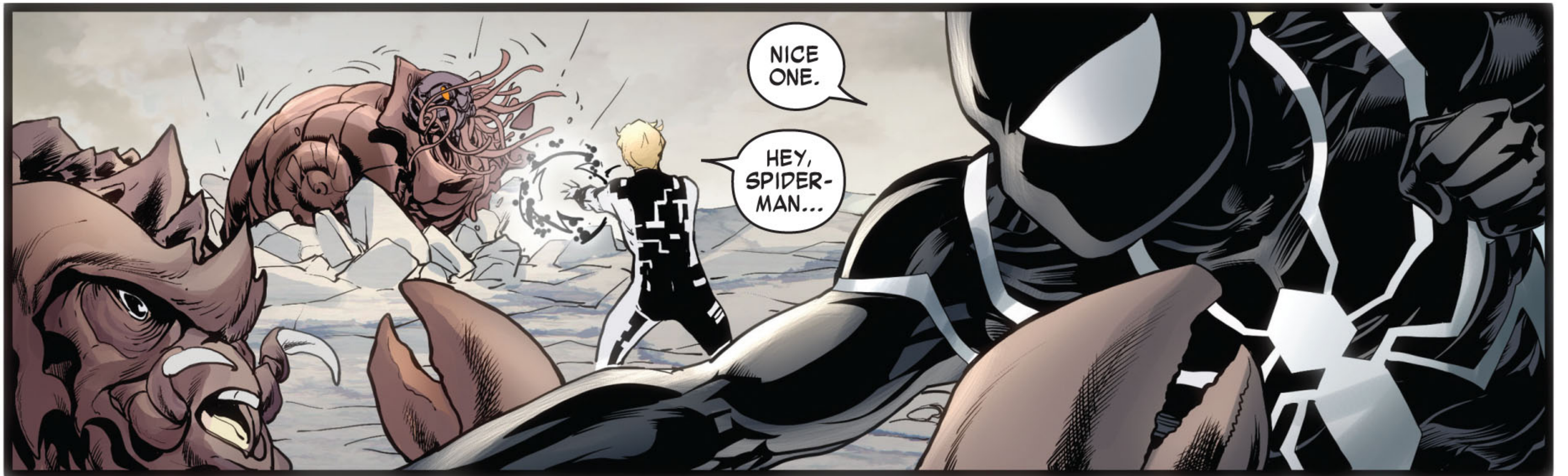
THEY PLAN
ON USING THE
ONE UNDER OLD
ATLANTIS.

 **TWO HOURS LATER.**
THE PEAK.
OLD ATLANTIS.

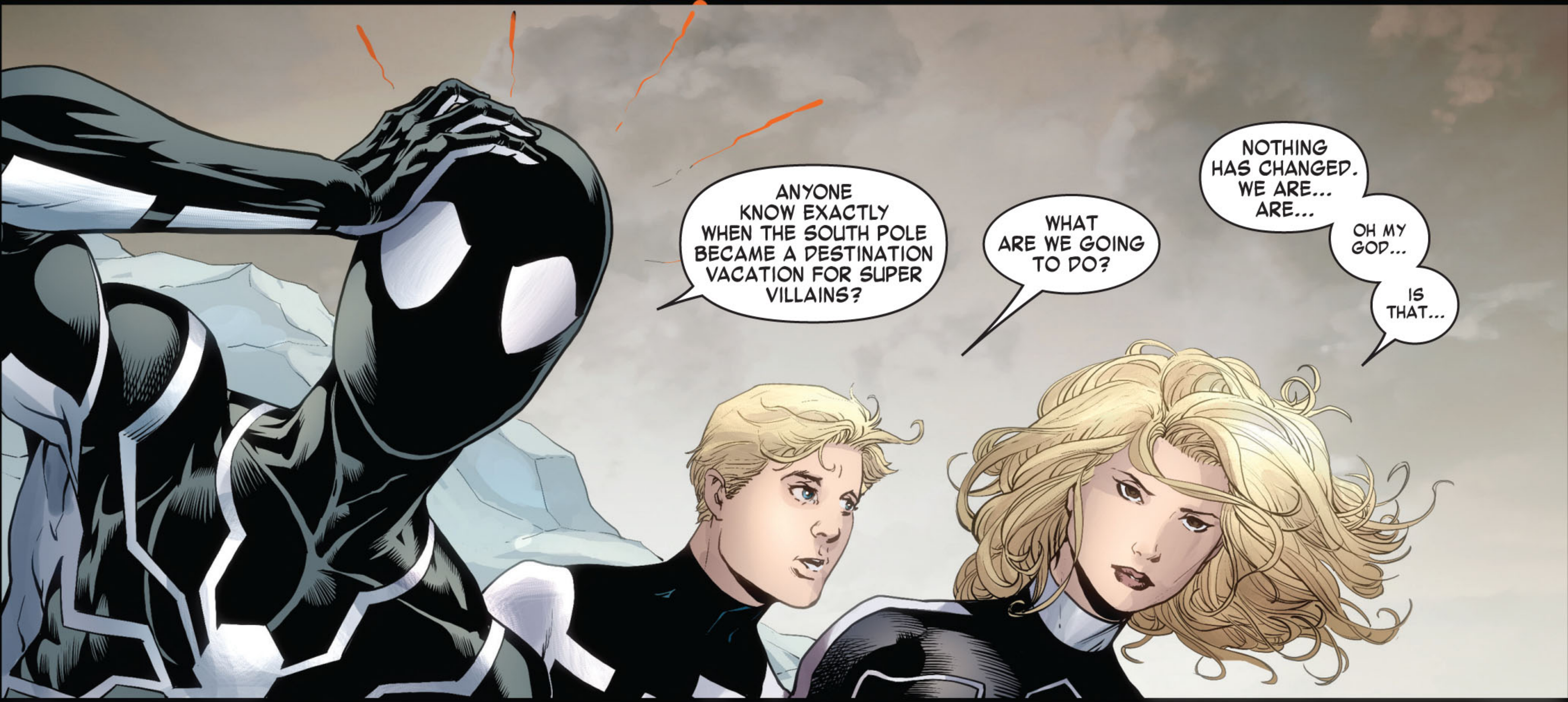












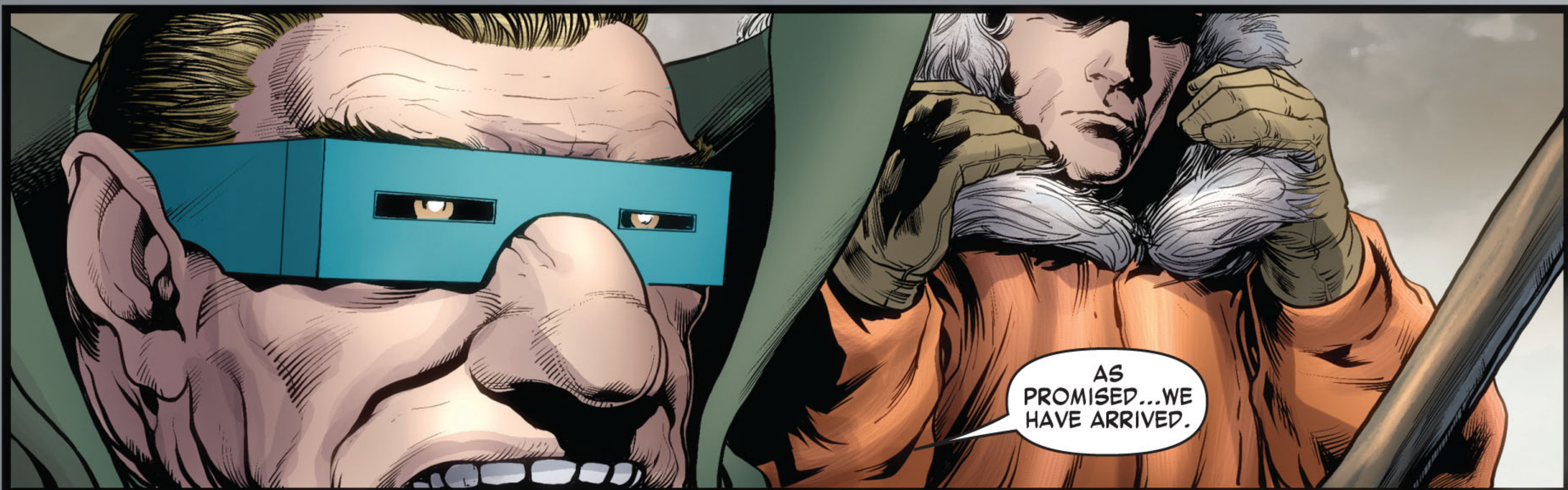
ANYONE
KNOW EXACTLY
WHEN THE SOUTH POLE
BECAME A DESTINATION
VACATION FOR SUPER
VILLAINS?

WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO?

NOTHING
HAS CHANGED.
WE ARE...
ARE...

OH MY
GOD...

IS
THAT...



AS
PROMISED...WE
HAVE ARRIVED.



GOOD.

BRING
THAT CITY
DOWN.



REED?



NEXT ISSUE:

SILENCE REIGNS!



HICKMAN

•

KITSON

•

MOUNTS

MARVEL

5

TM

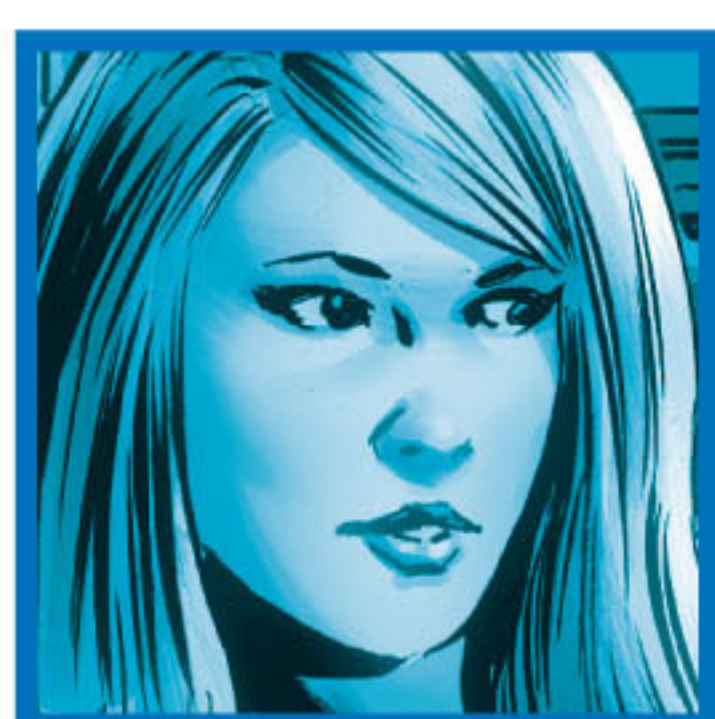
3/16/11 LANNING MOUNTS

VAL INADVERTENTLY RELEASED THE LAST FOUR REEDS OF THE INTERDIMENSIONAL COUNCIL INTO OUR UNIVERSE. A WORLD-ALTERING WAR OF THE FOUR CITIES HAS BEEN FORETOLD BY A VAL FROM THE FUTURE. IN ORDER TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION, THE REEDS INTEND TO BRING ABOUT THIS WAR. THE FF HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER THEIR MOST INTELLIGENT FOES TO PLAN A COUNTER-STRATEGY AGAINST THE REEDS.

"...THE SOUND OF WAR"



REED RICHARDS,
MISTER FANTASTIC



SUSAN RICHARDS,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN



BENJAMIN GRIMM,
THE THING



SPIDER-MAN



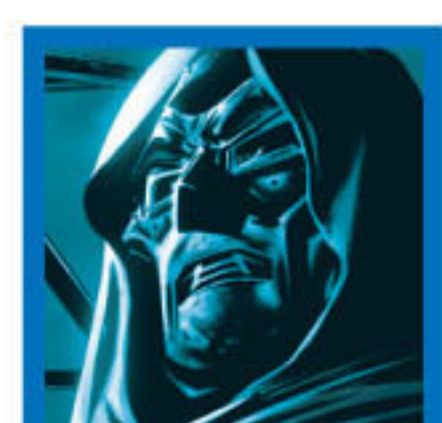
VALERIA RICHARDS



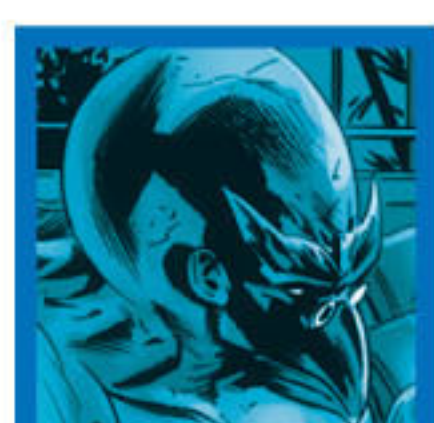
FRANKLIN RICHARDS



NATHANIEL RICHARDS



DOCTOR DOOM



DRAGON MAN



WU & VIL



MIK, KOR & TURG



TONG



LEECH



ARTIE



BENTLEY



ALEX POWER

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**

ARTIST: **BARRY KITSON**

COLOR ARTIST: **PAUL MOUNTS**

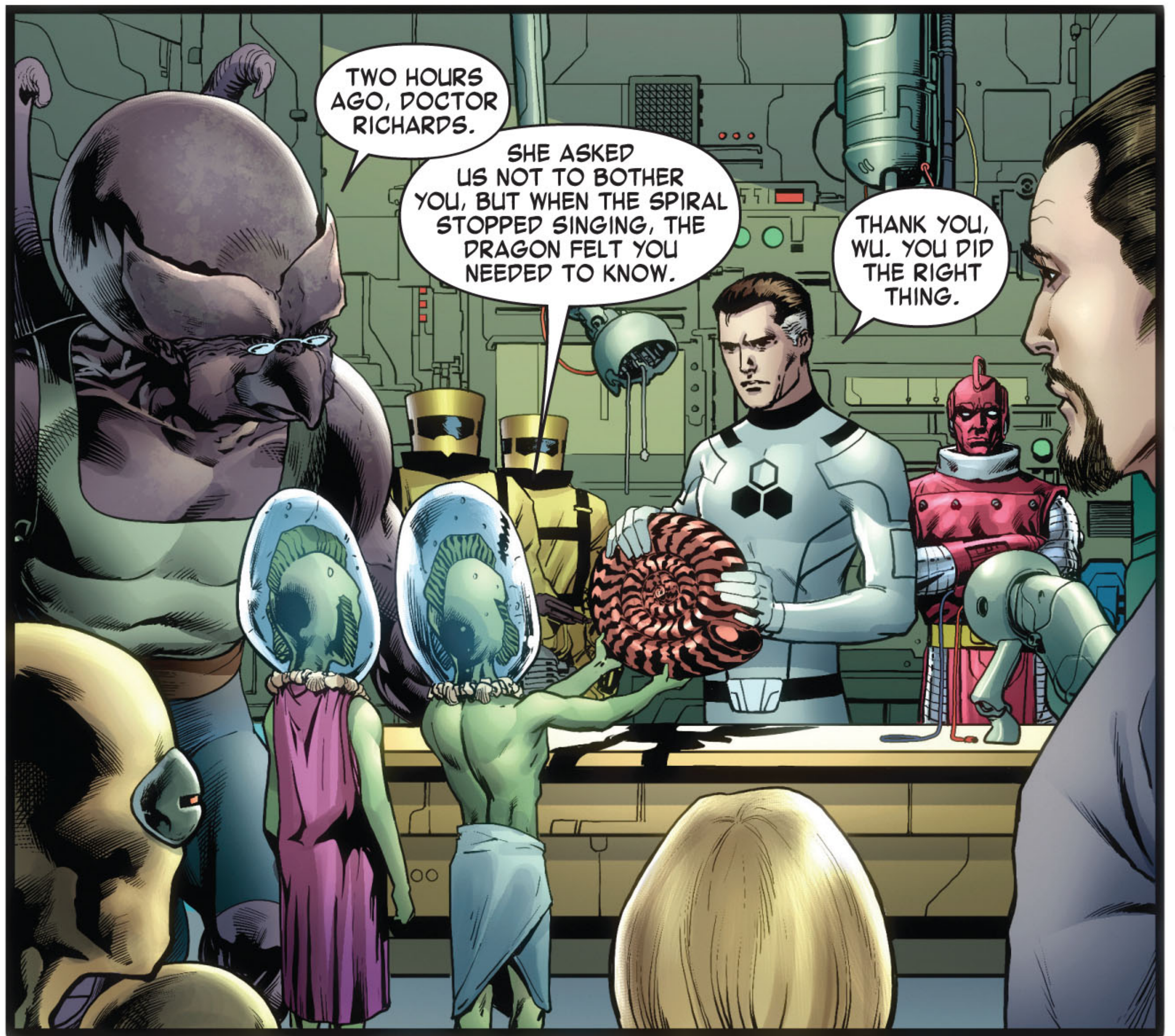
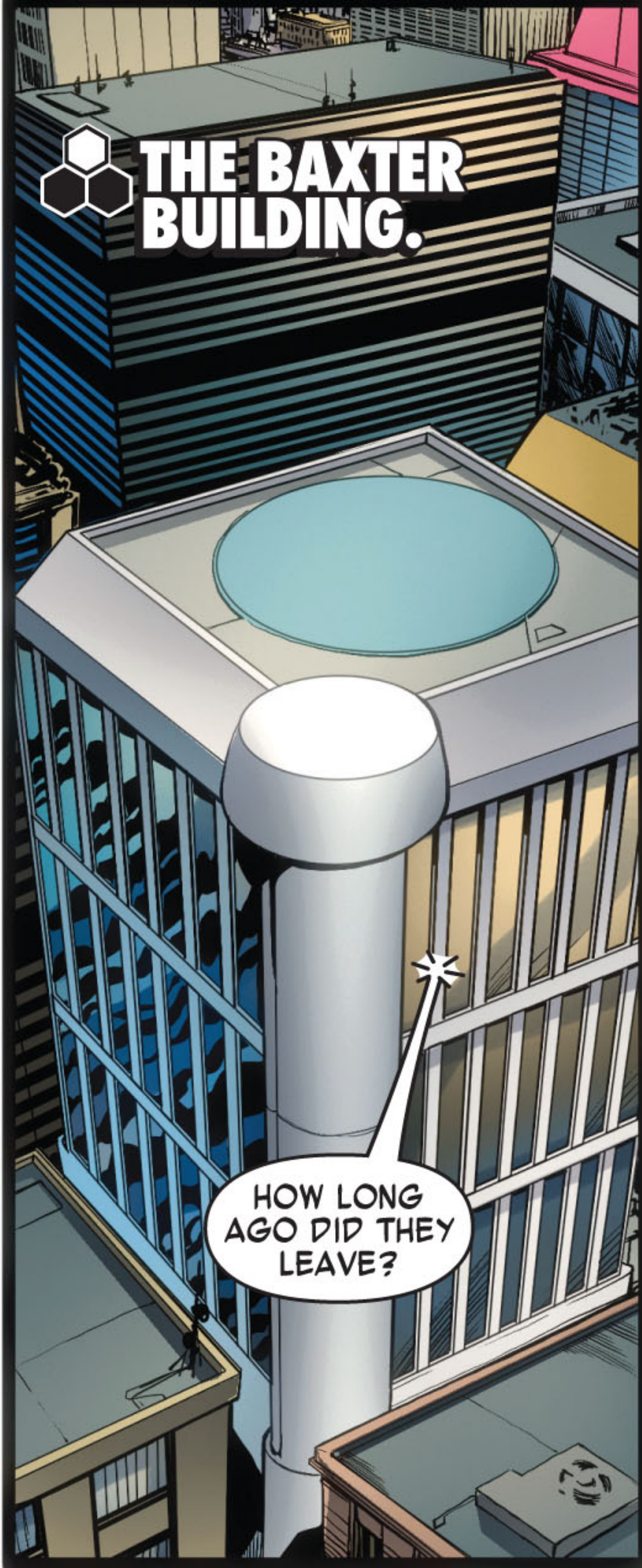
LETTERER: **VC's CLAYTON COWLES**

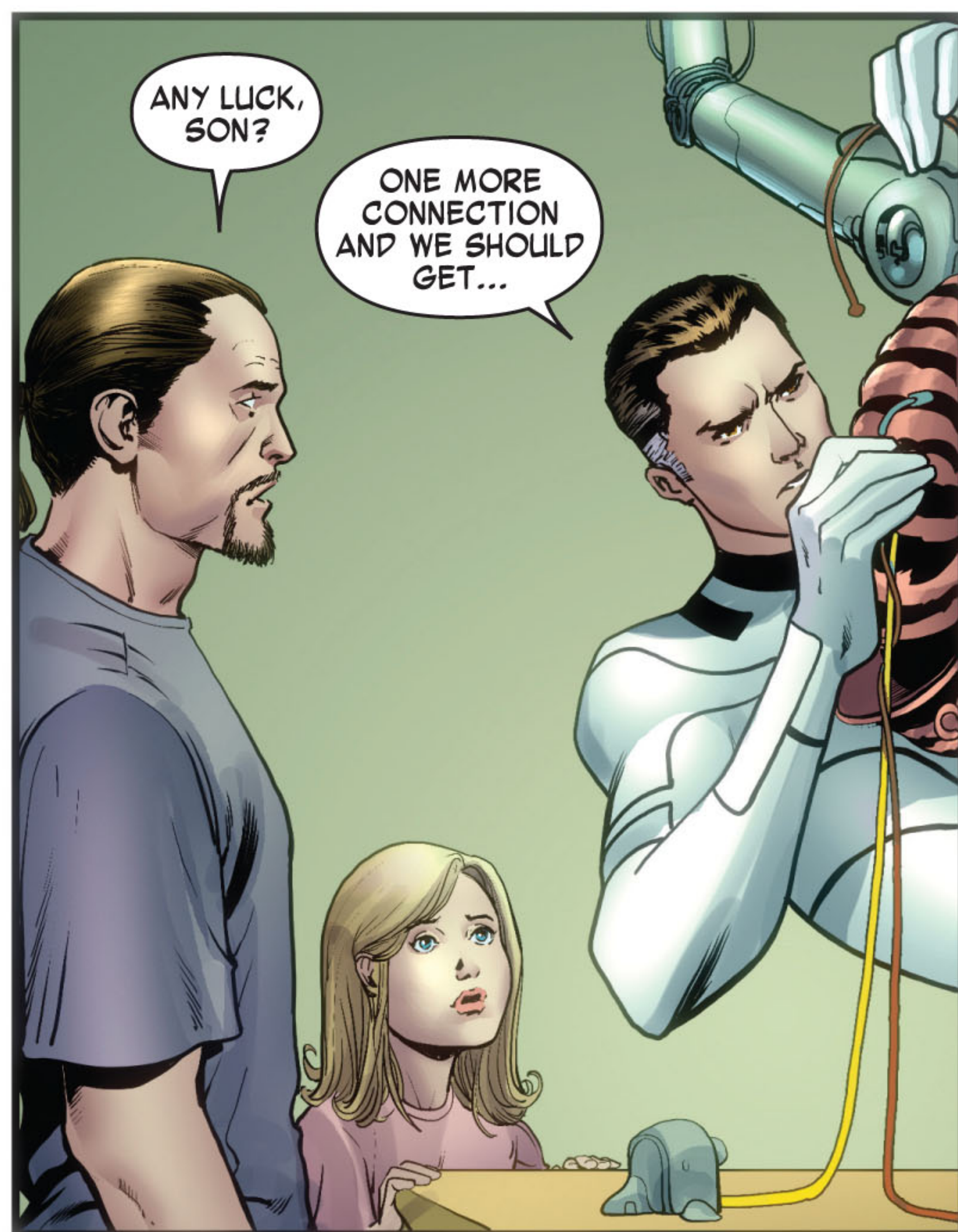
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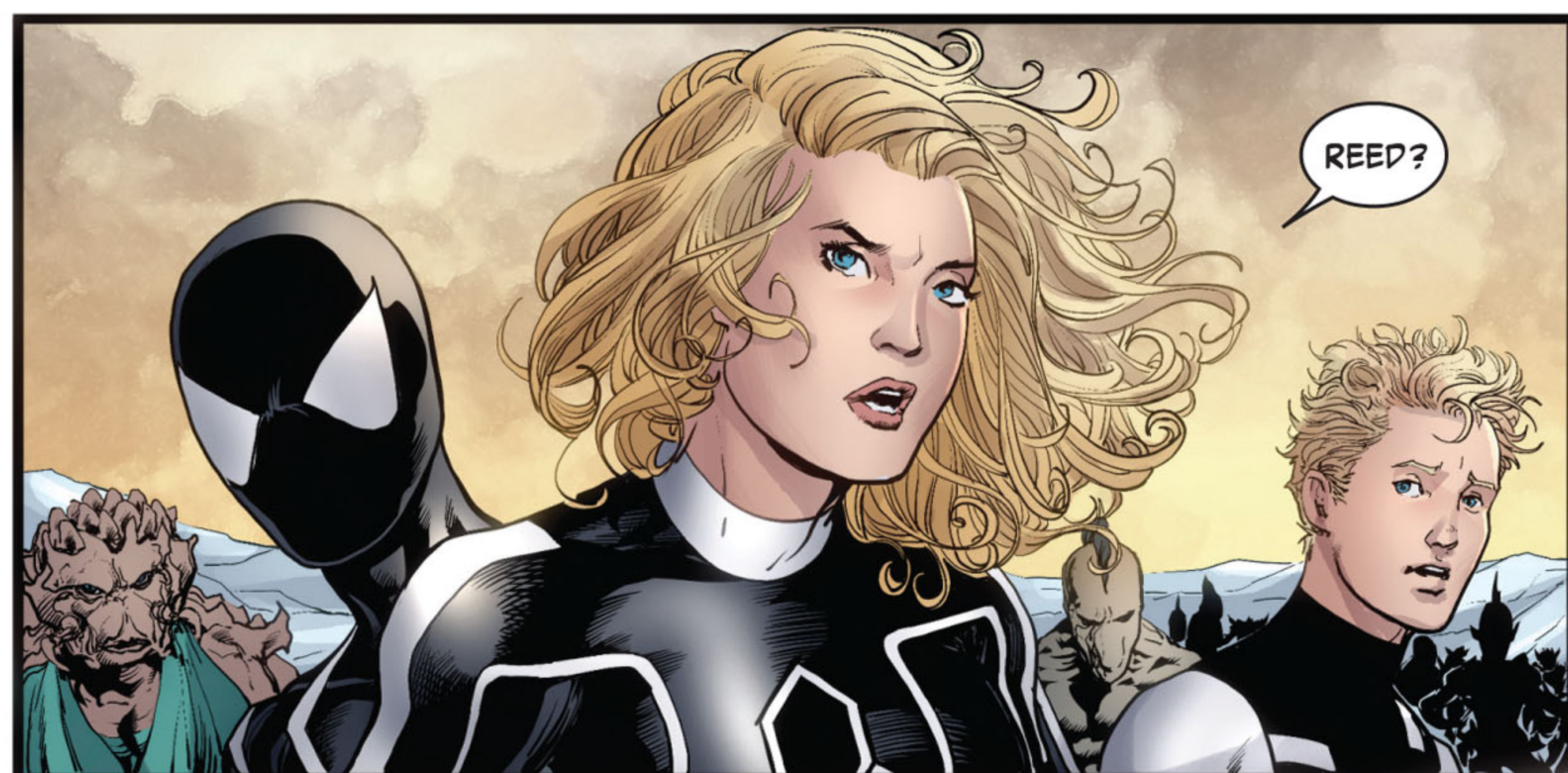
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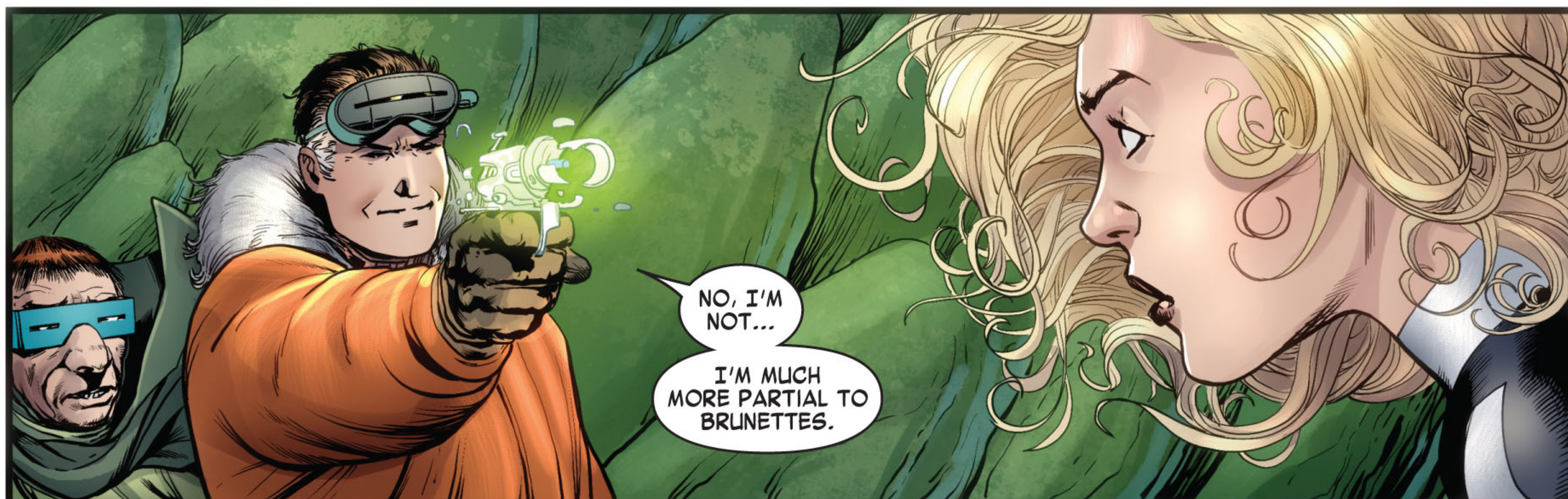
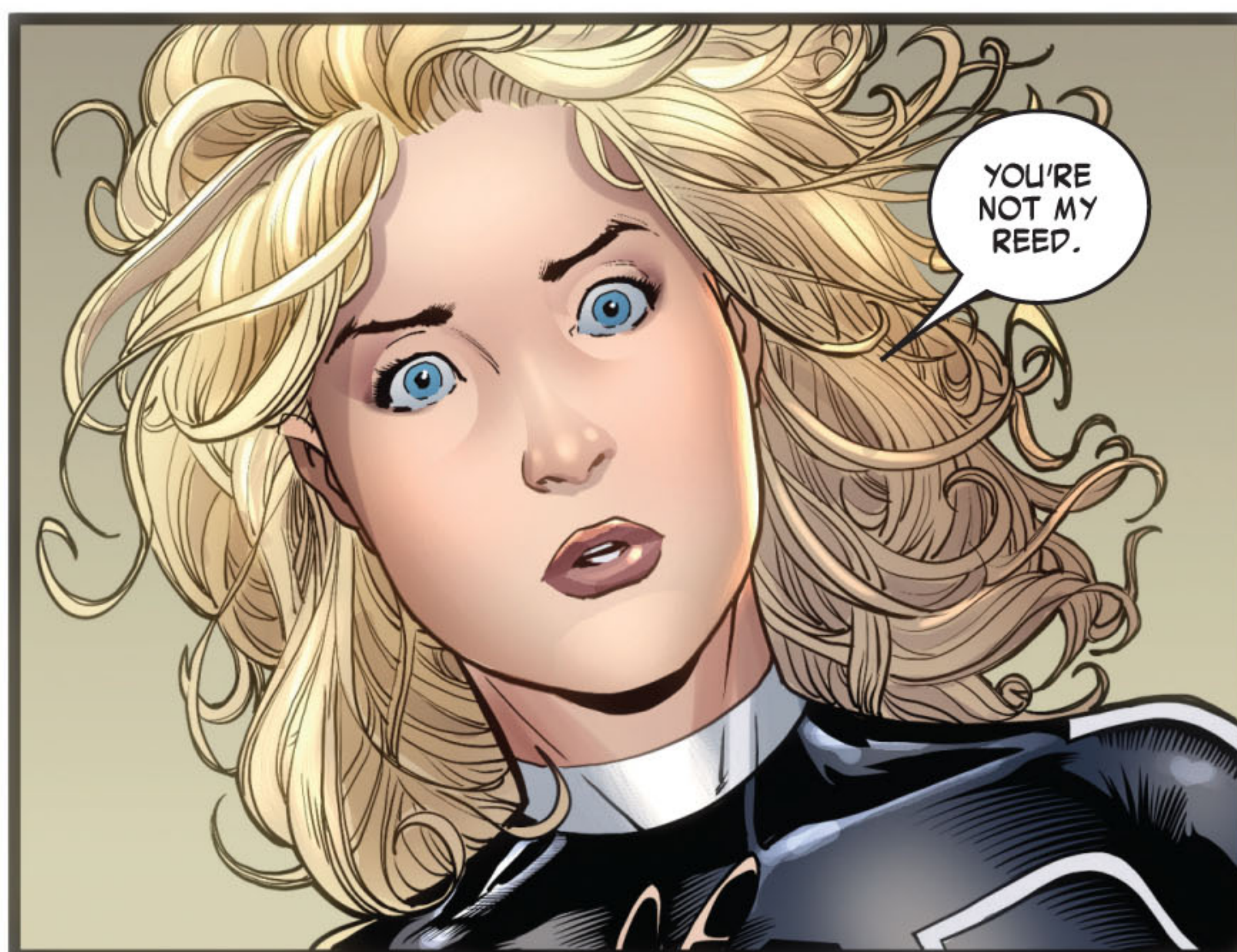
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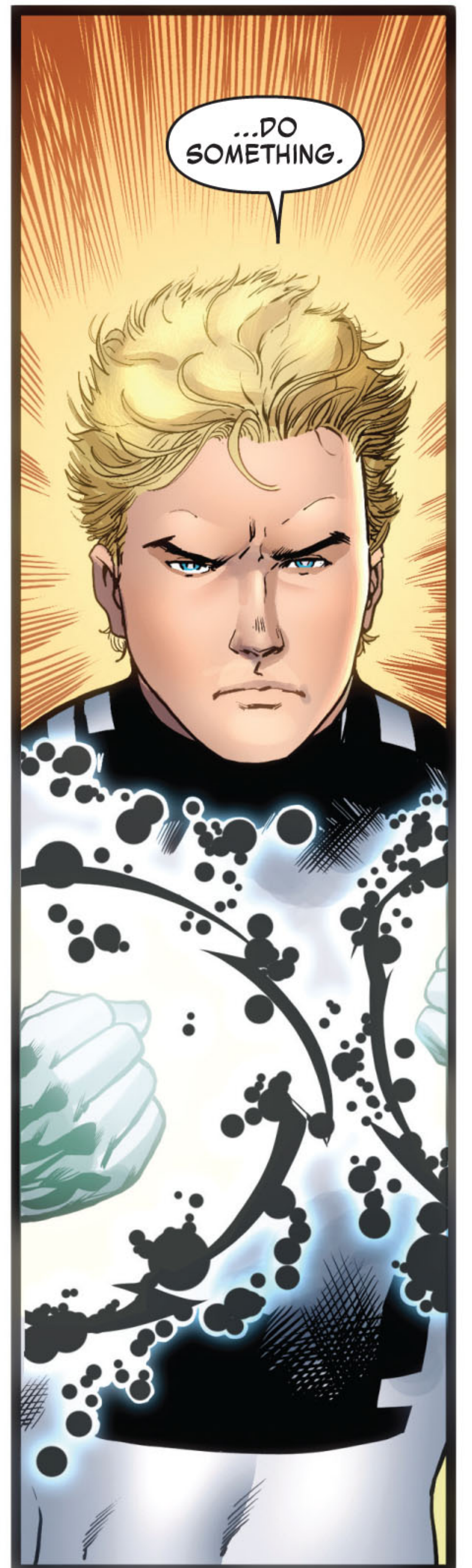
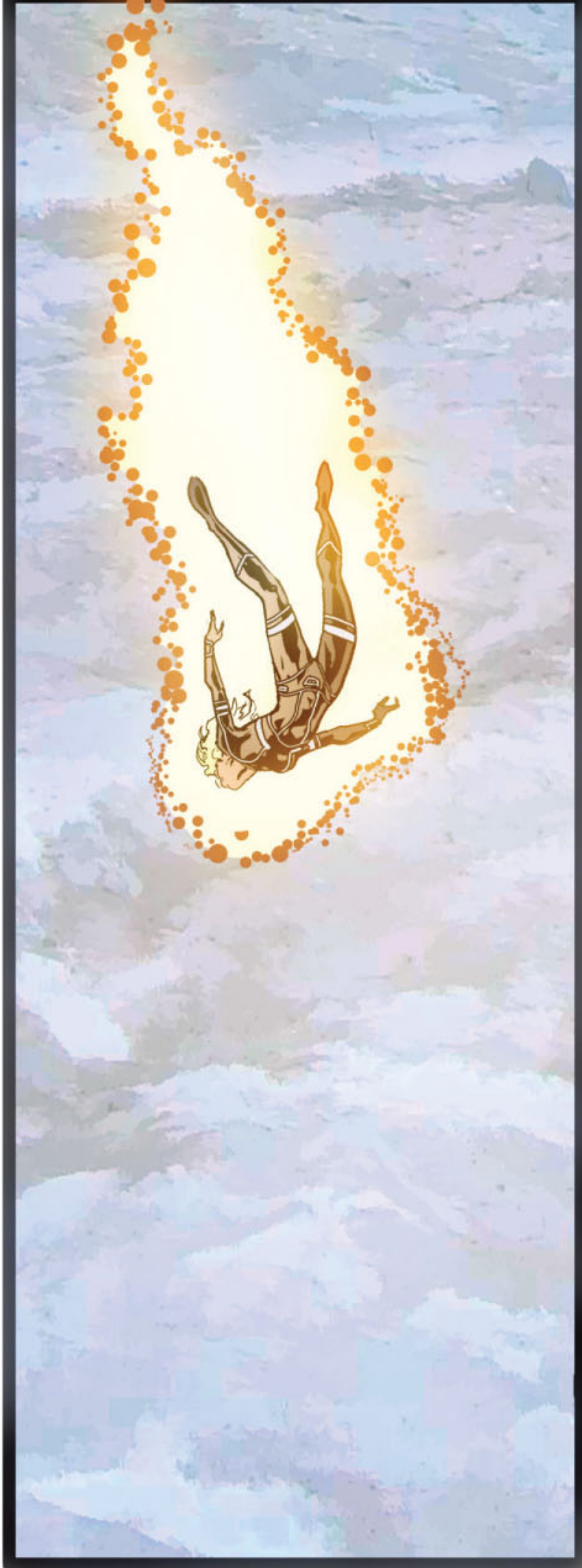


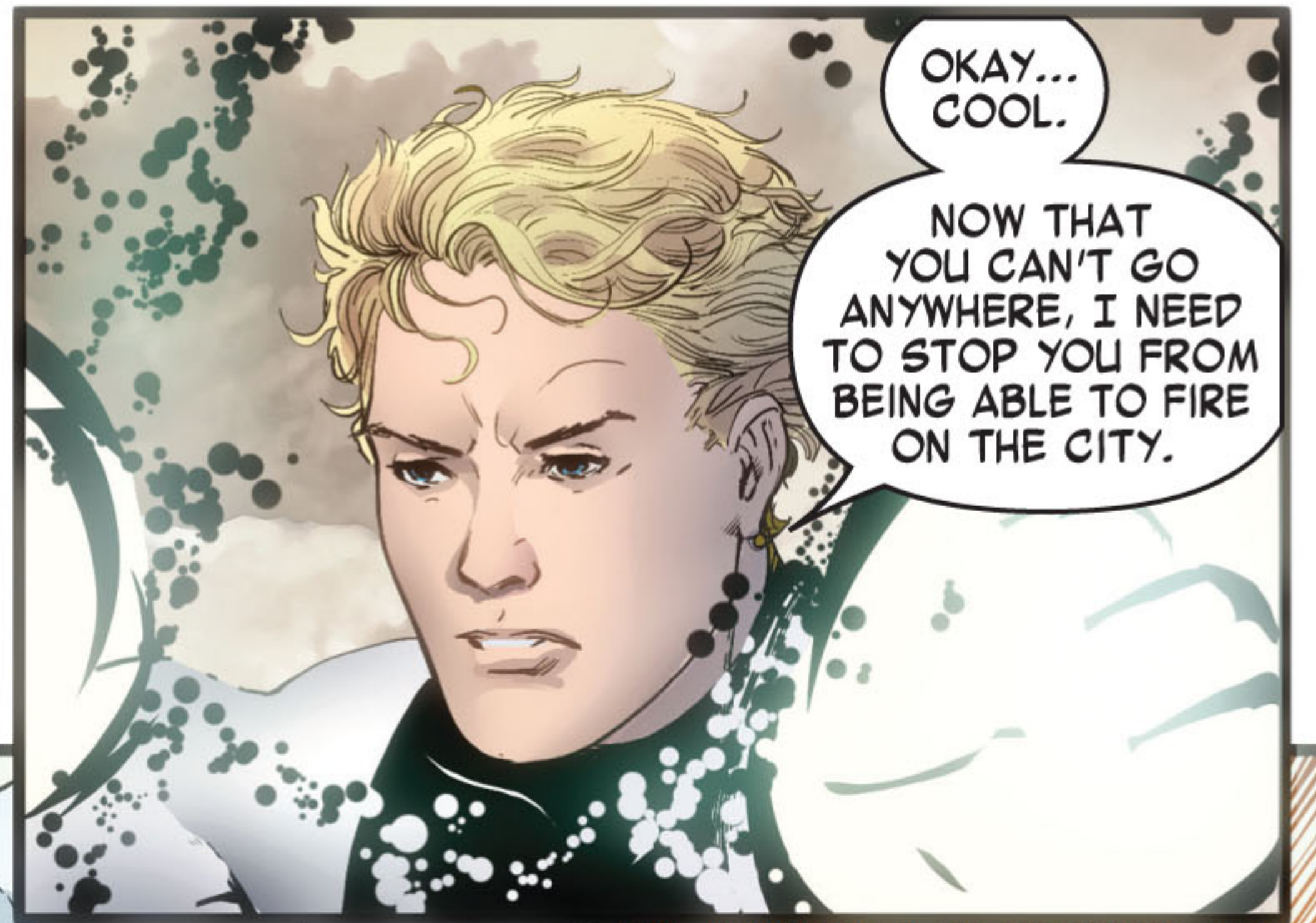
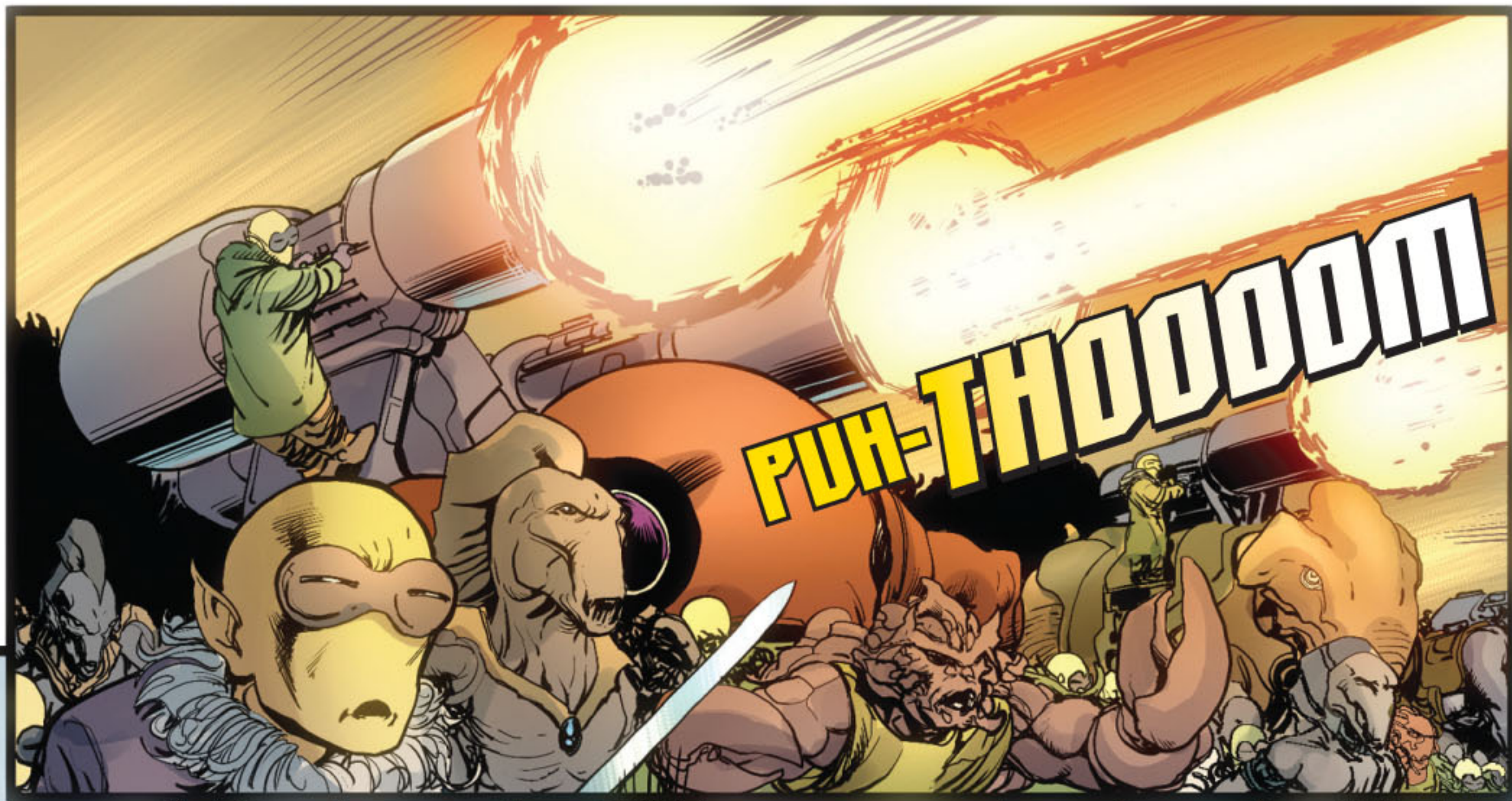


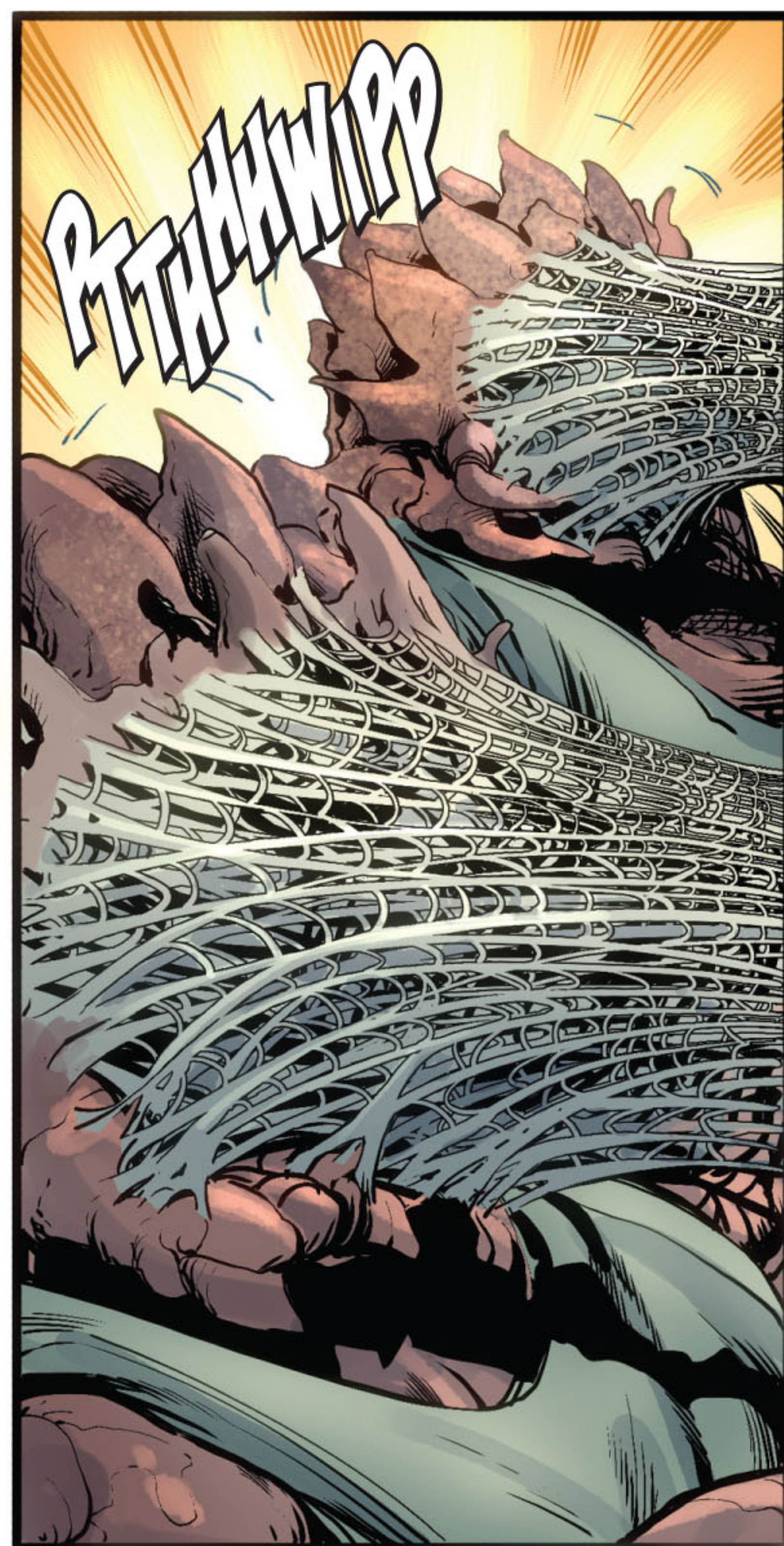
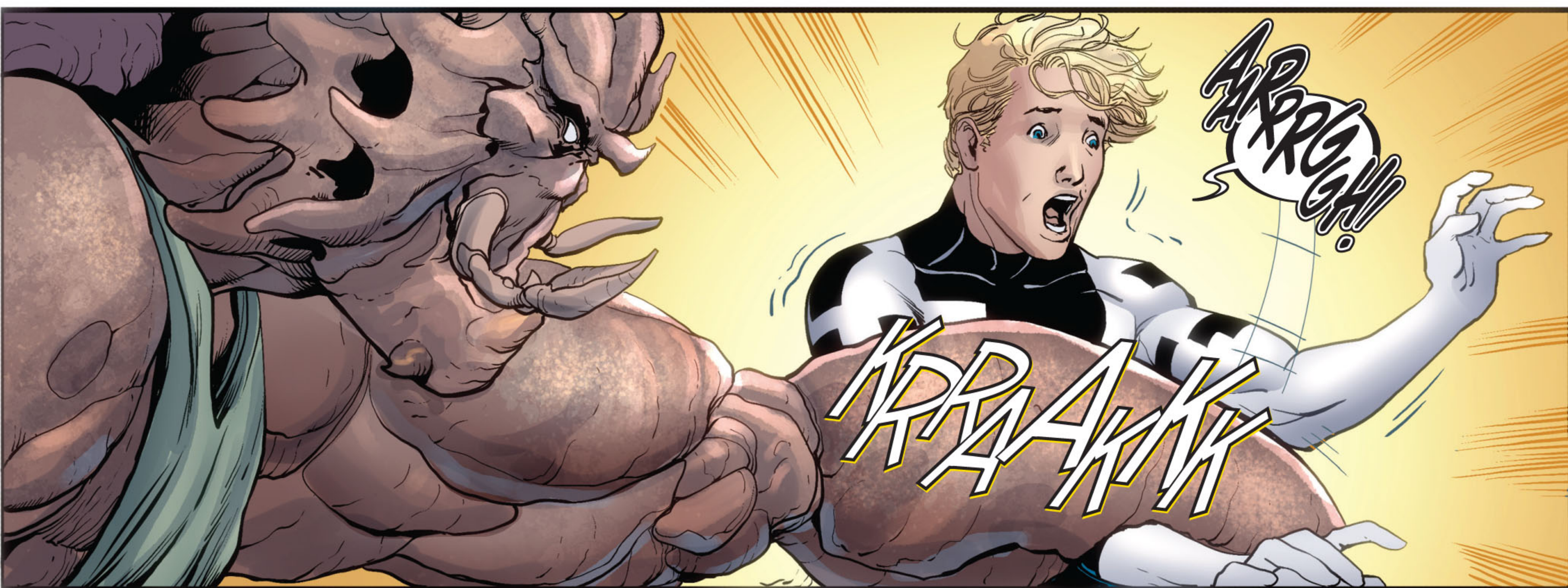
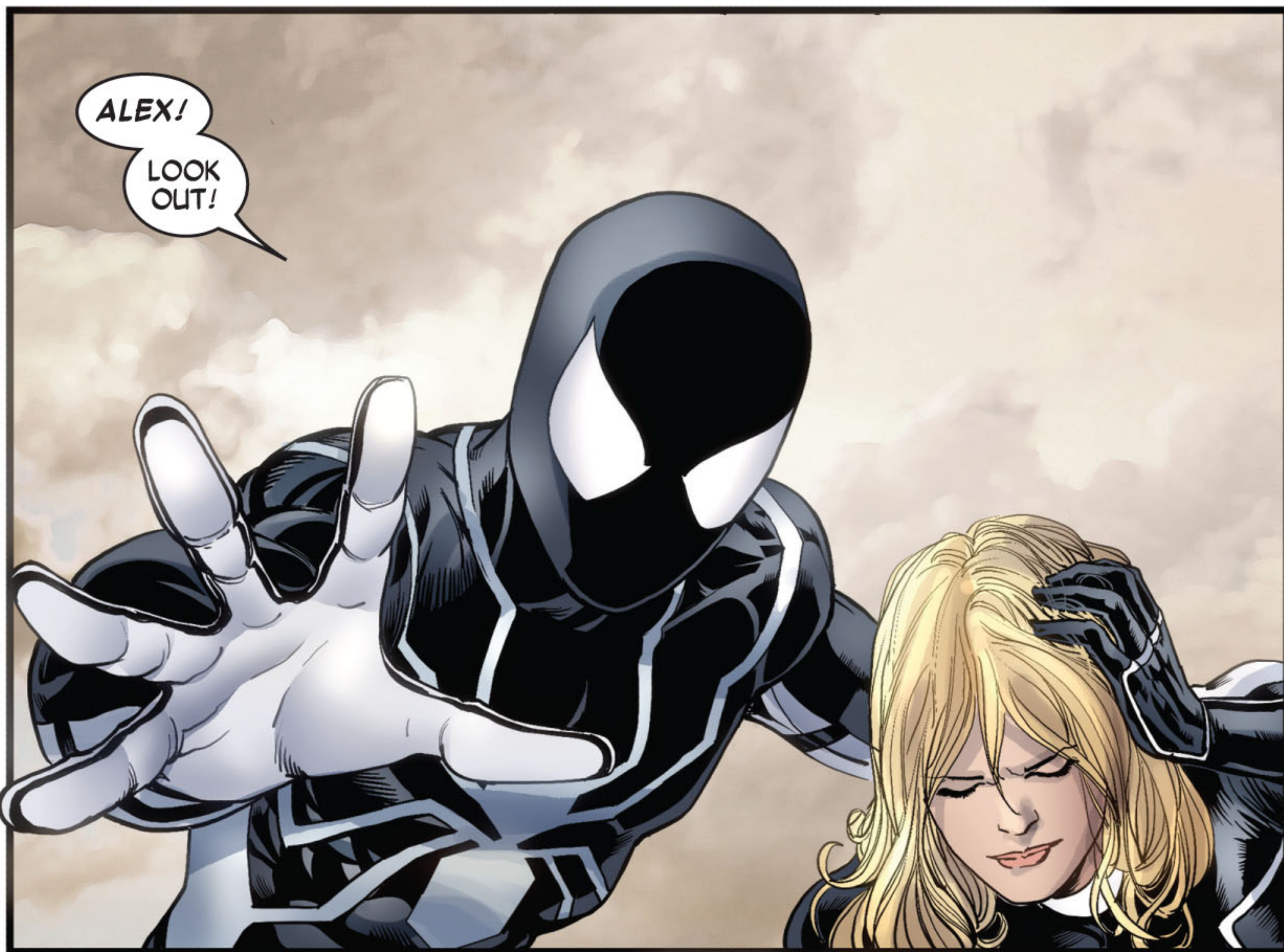
THE PEAK.
OLD ATLANTIS.
15 MINUTES AGO.

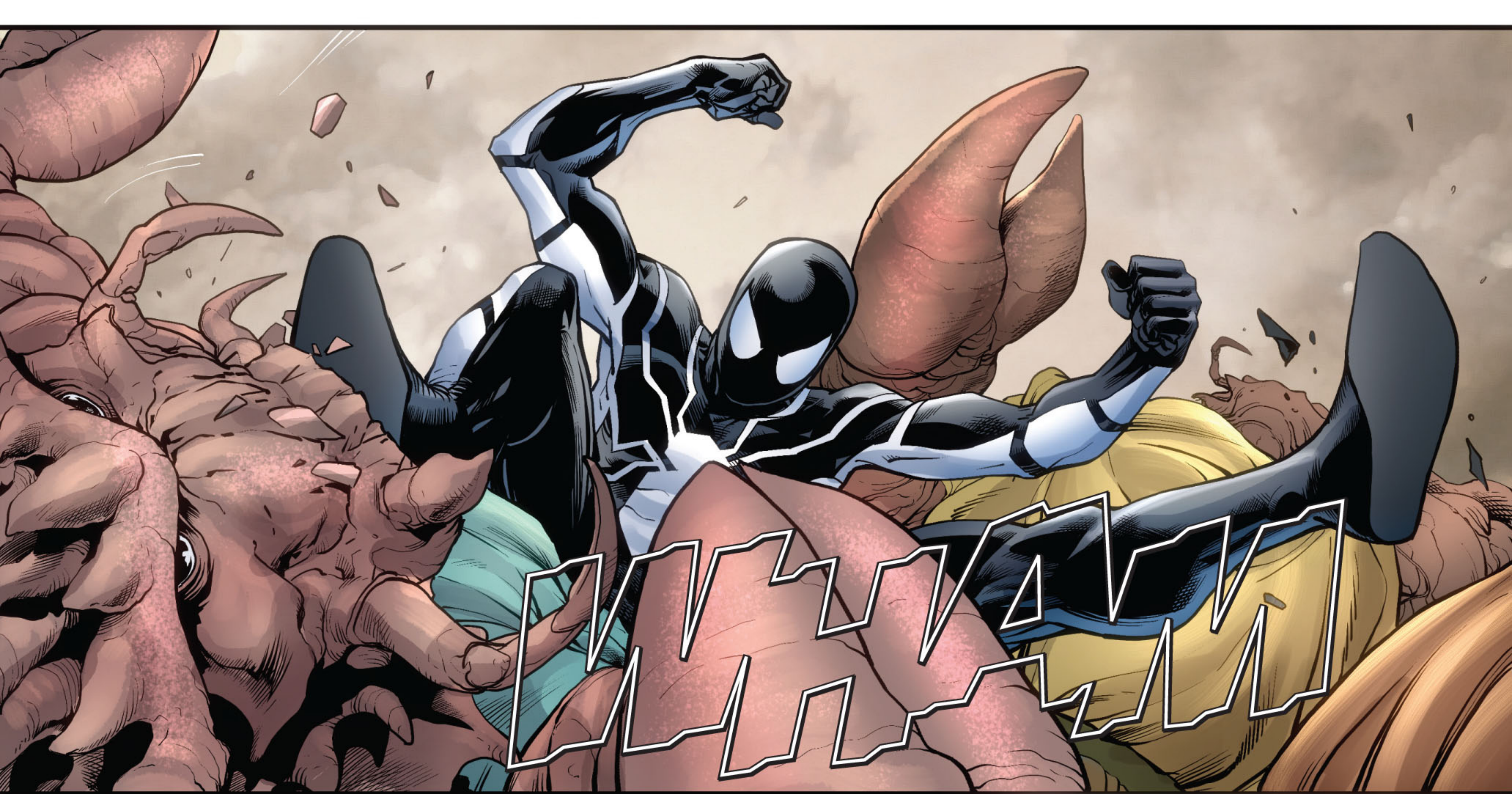


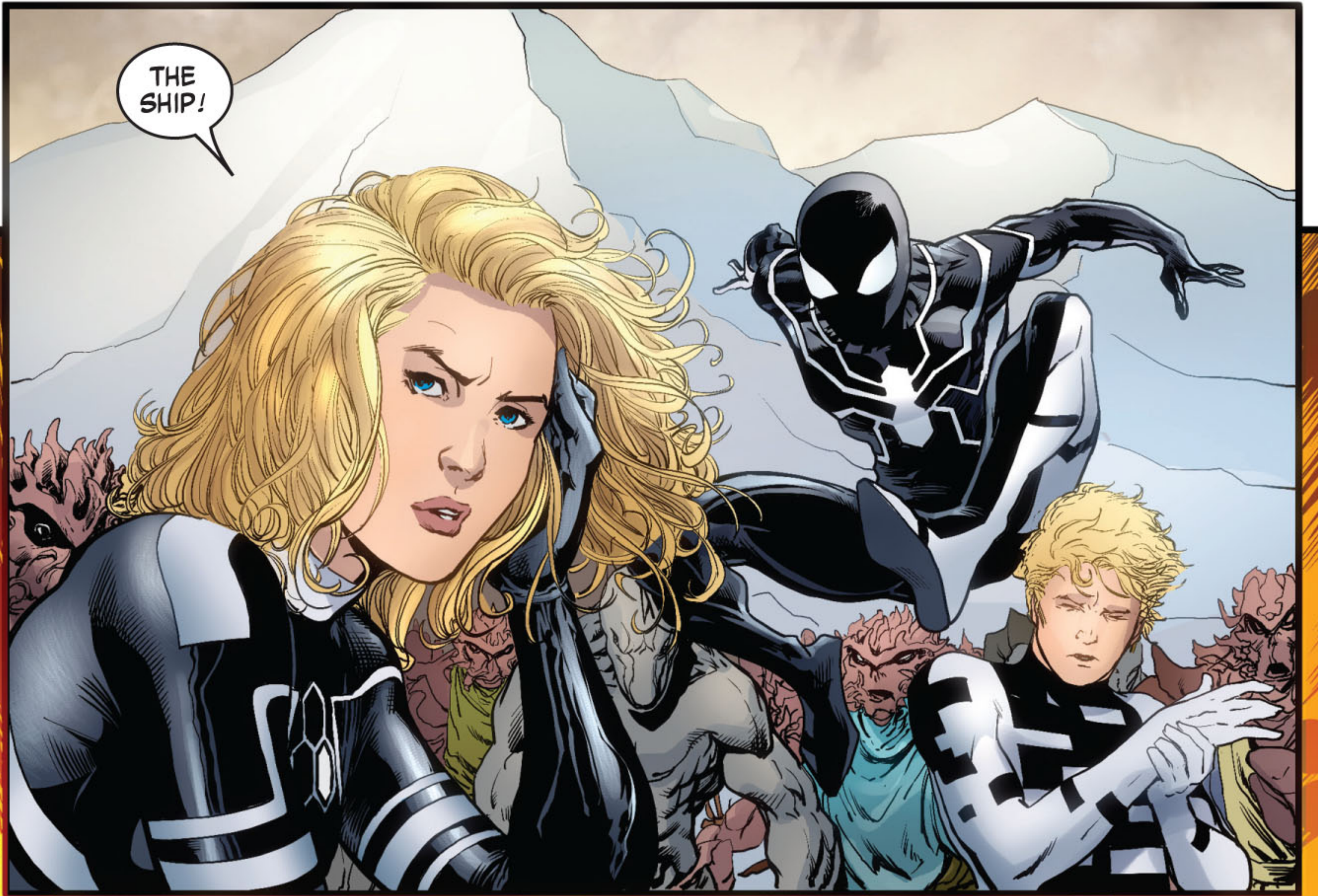
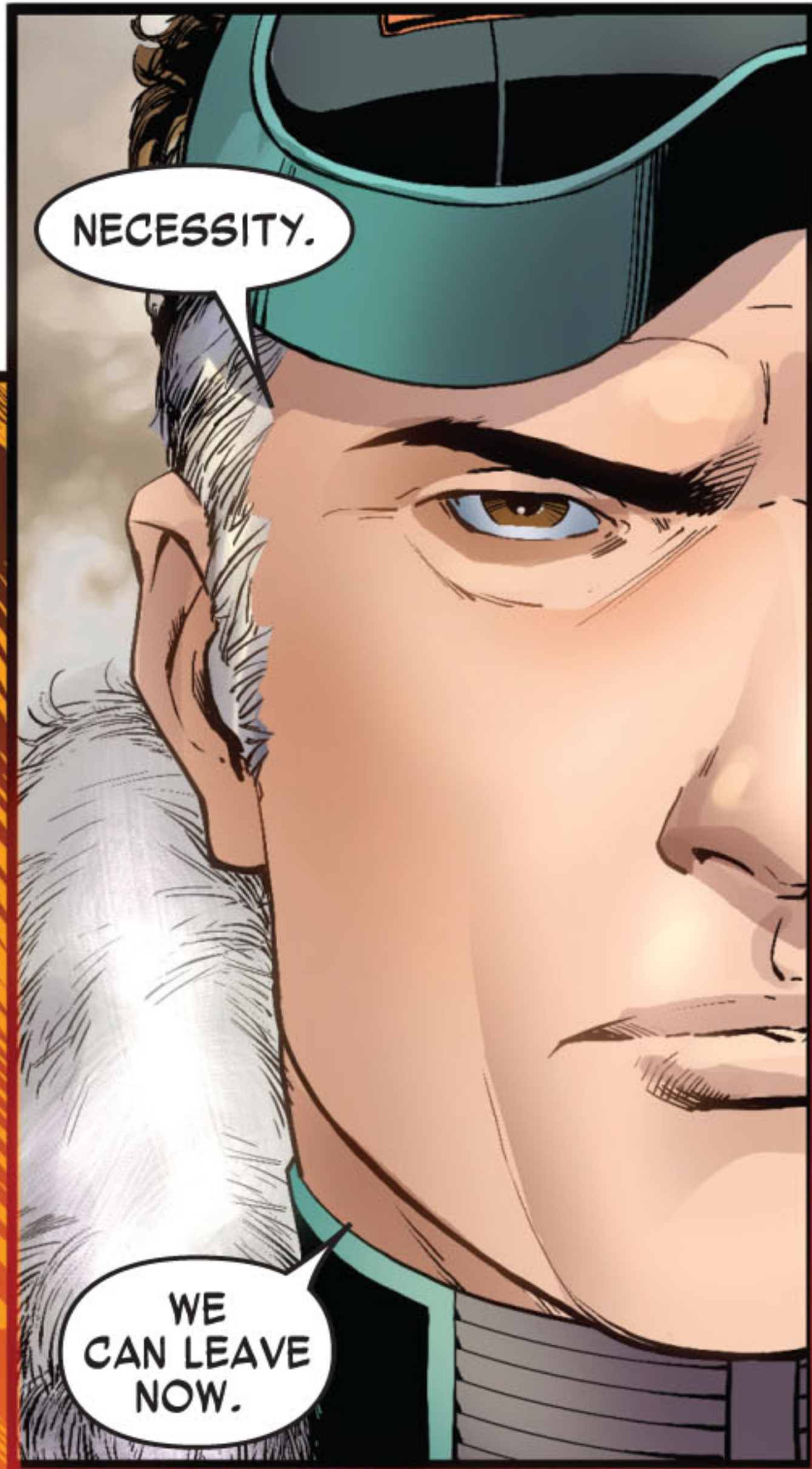




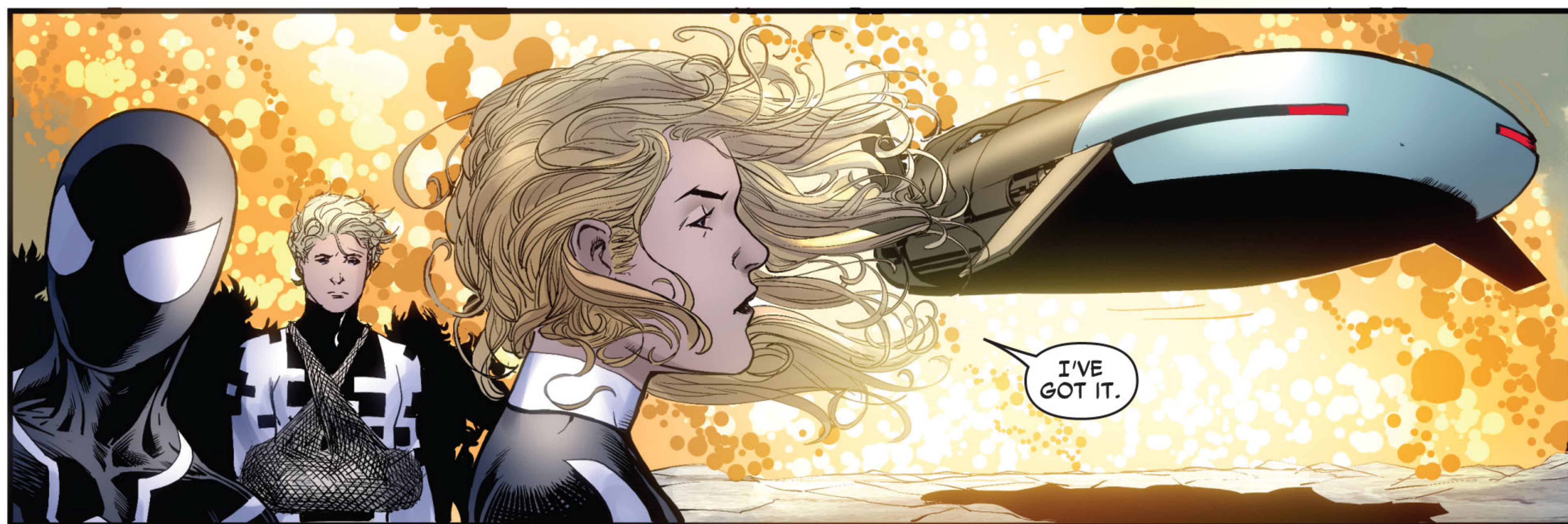
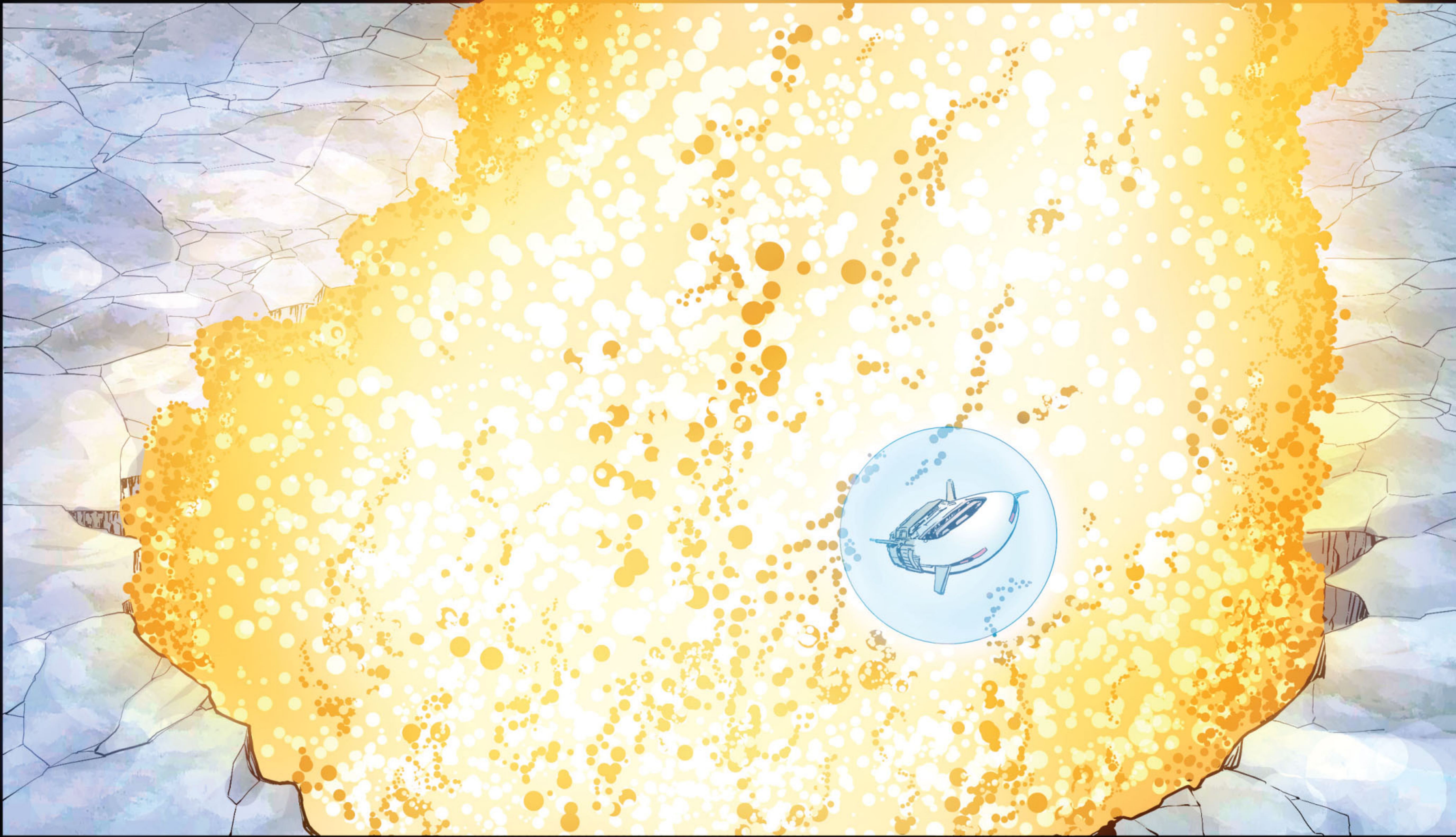


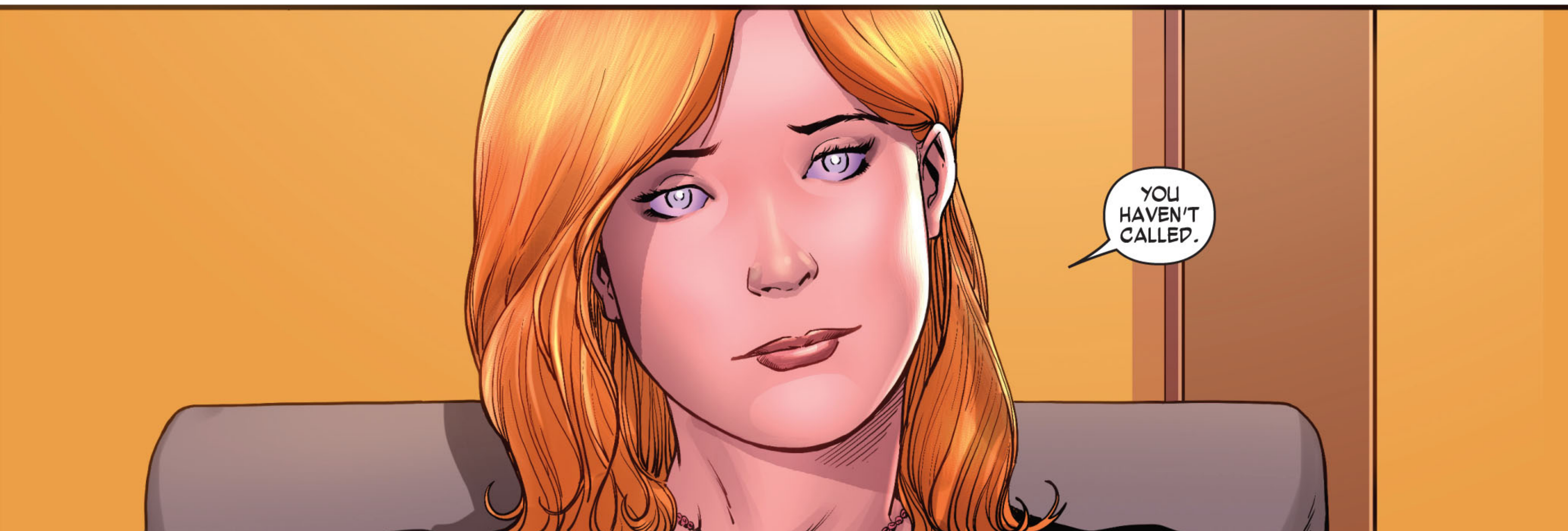
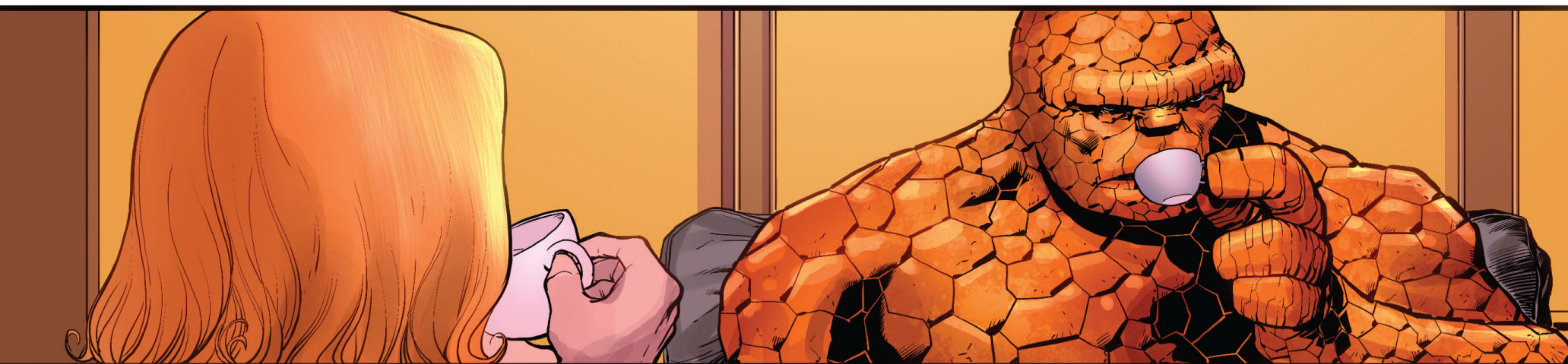
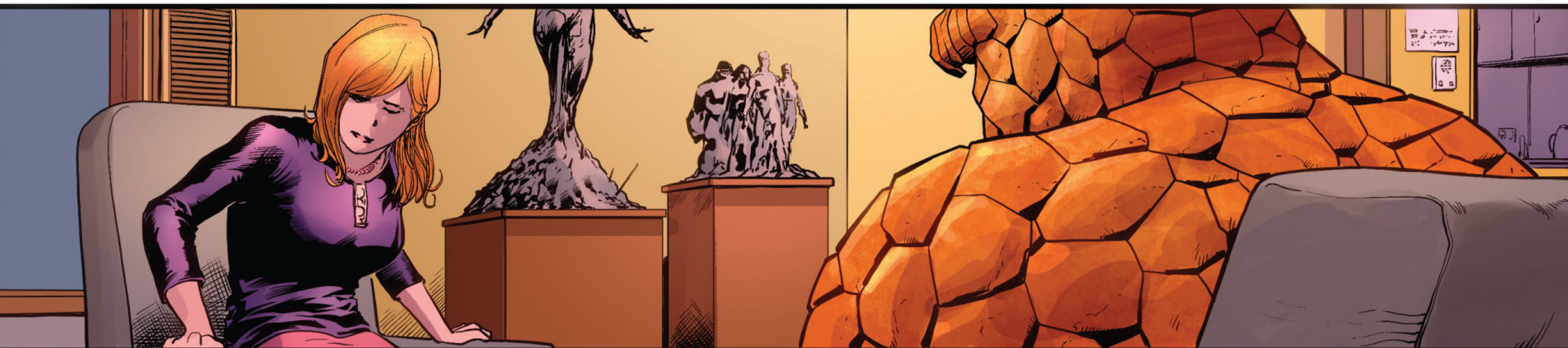
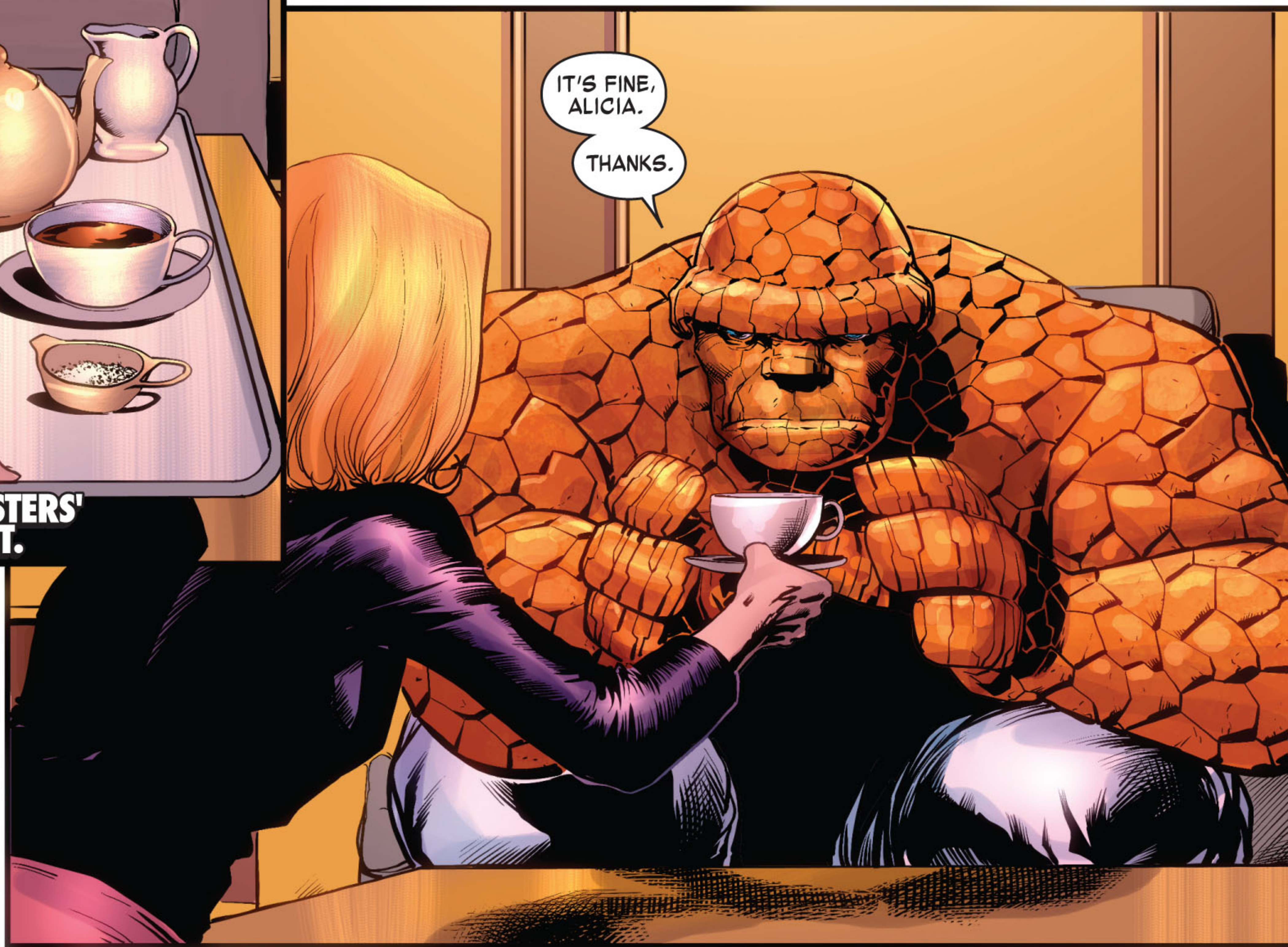


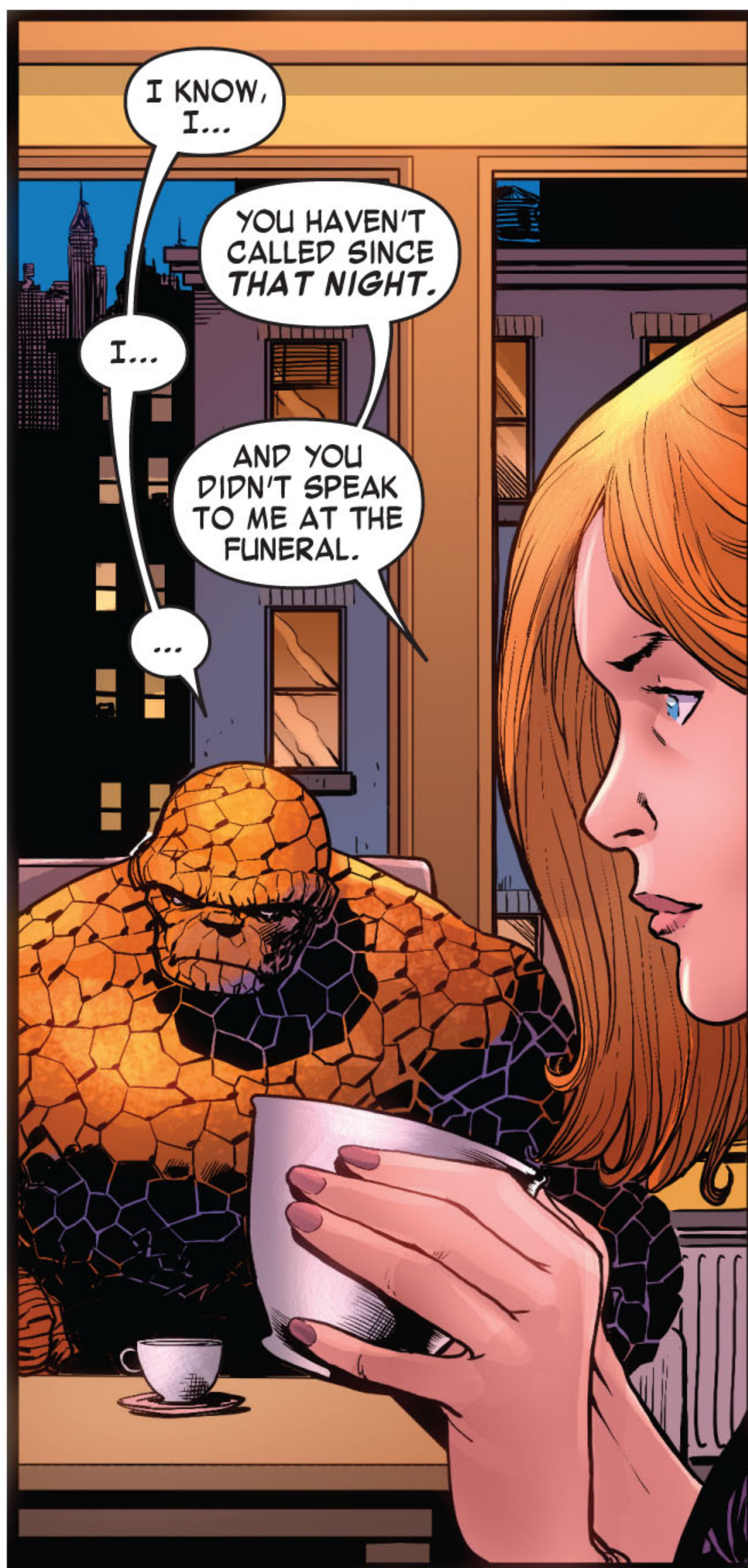




BA-BA-BOOOOOM







I KNOW,
I...

YOU HAVEN'T
CALLED SINCE
THAT NIGHT.

I...

AND YOU
DIDN'T SPEAK
TO ME AT THE
FUNERAL.

...

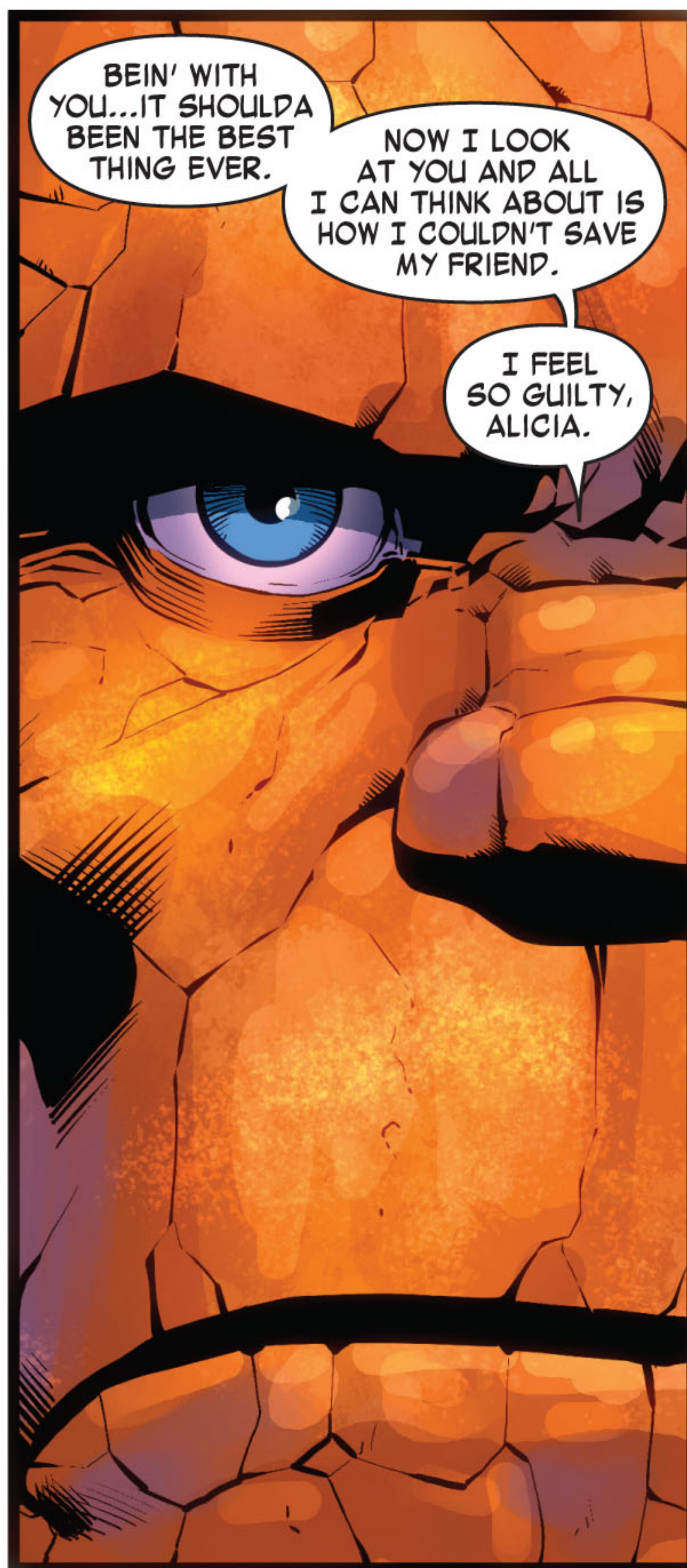


I KNOW.

I'M
SORRY.

I'VE BEEN
KINDA KEEPIN'
TO MYSELF.
I...

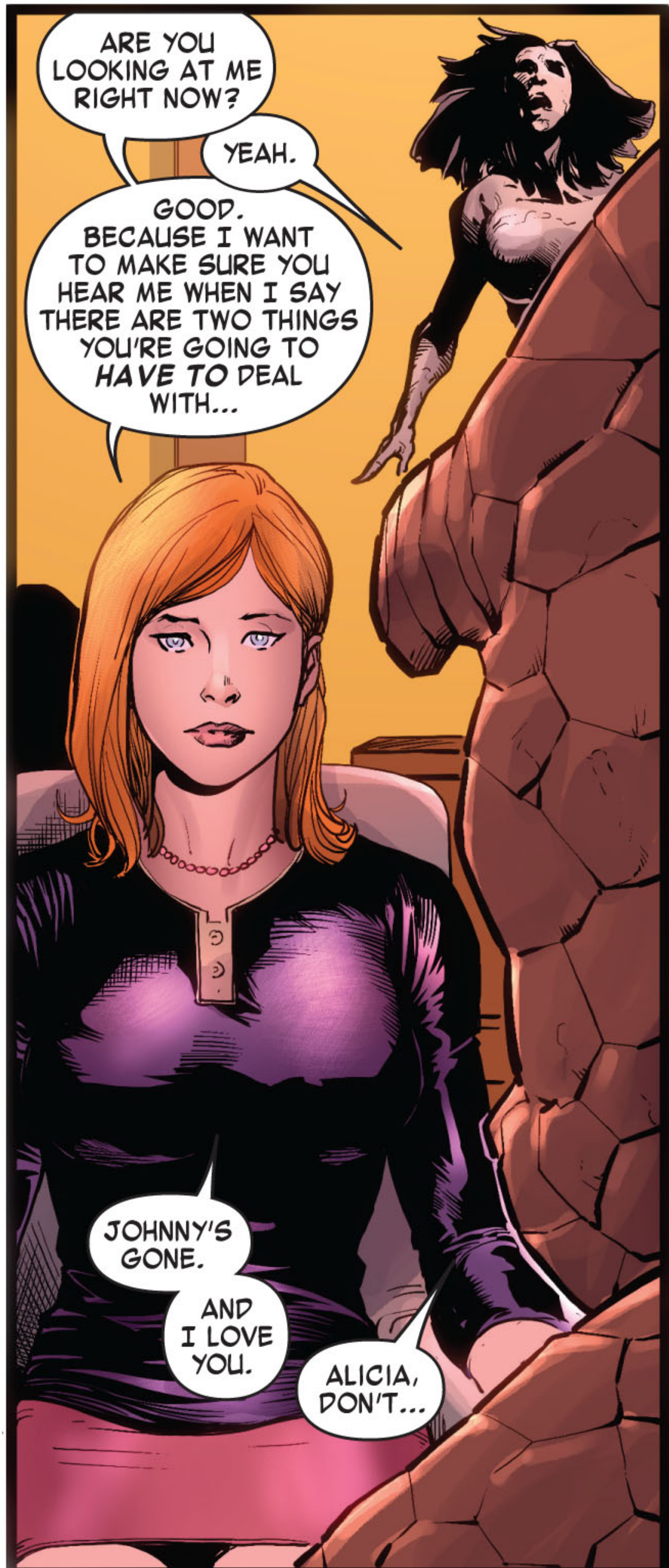
I...I'M
JUST HAVIN'
A HARD TIME
WITH...



BEIN' WITH
YOU...IT SHOULD
BEEN THE BEST
THING EVER.

NOW I LOOK
AT YOU AND ALL
I CAN THINK ABOUT IS
HOW I COULDN'T SAVE
MY FRIEND.

I FEEL
SO GUILTY,
ALICIA.



ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
RIGHT NOW?

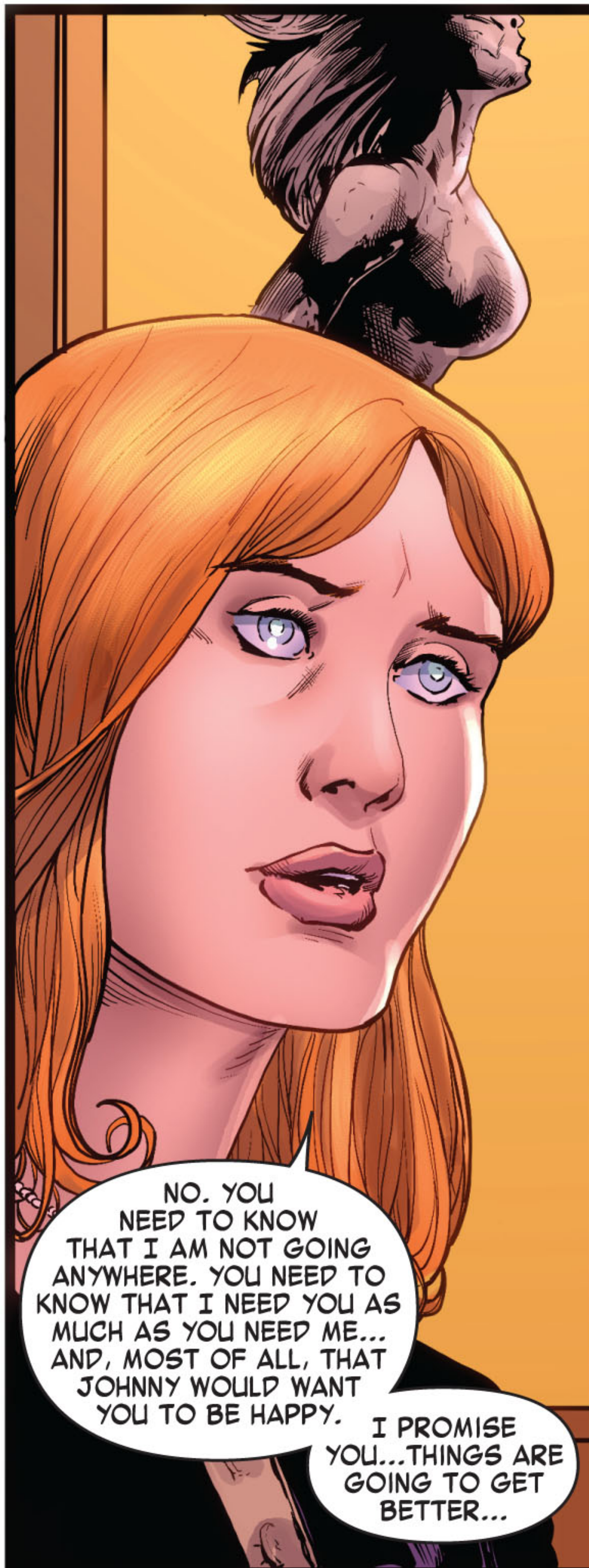
YEAH.

GOOD.
BECAUSE I WANT
TO MAKE SURE YOU
HEAR ME WHEN I SAY
THERE ARE TWO THINGS
YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO DEAL
WITH...

JOHNNY'S
GONE.

AND
I LOVE
YOU.

ALICIA,
DON'T...



NO. YOU
NEED TO KNOW
THAT I AM NOT GOING
ANYWHERE. YOU NEED TO
KNOW THAT I NEED YOU AS
MUCH AS YOU NEED ME...
AND, MOST OF ALL, THAT
JOHNNY WOULD WANT
YOU TO BE HAPPY.

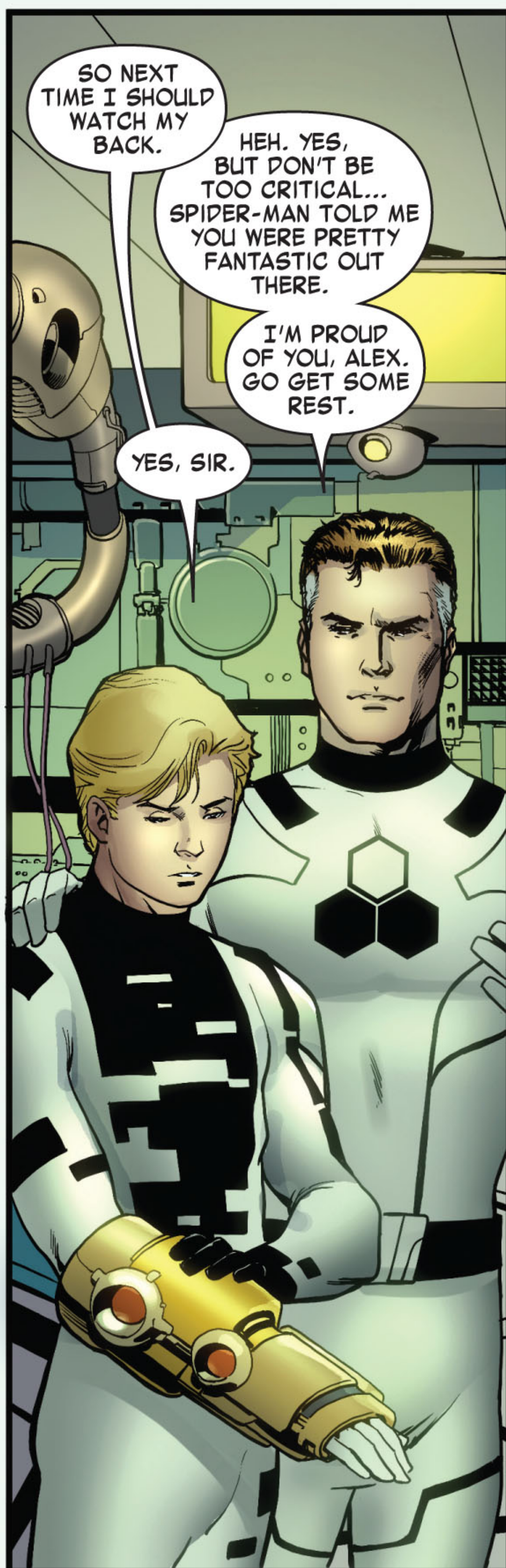
I PROMISE
YOU...THINGS ARE
GOING TO GET
BETTER...

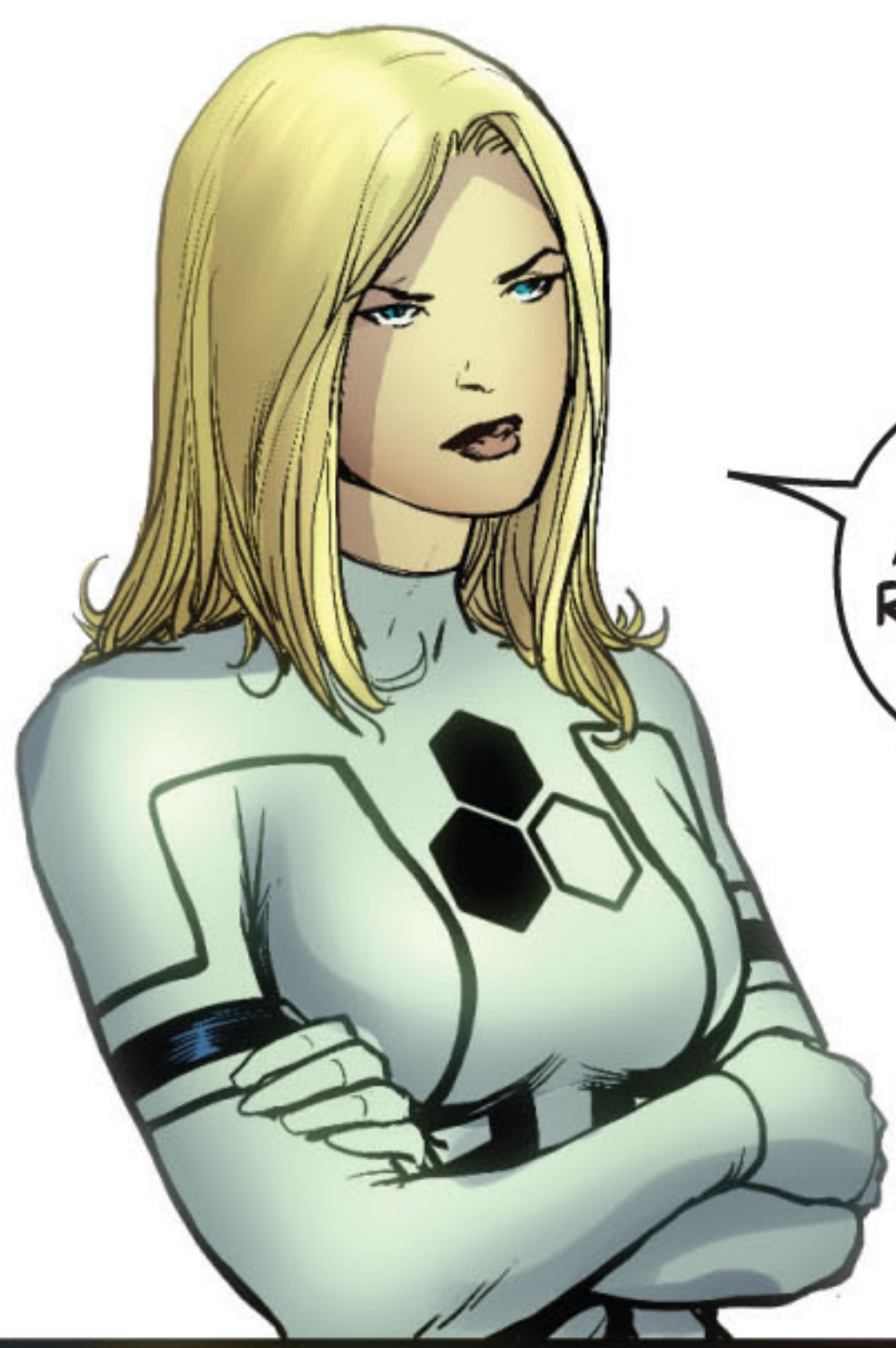
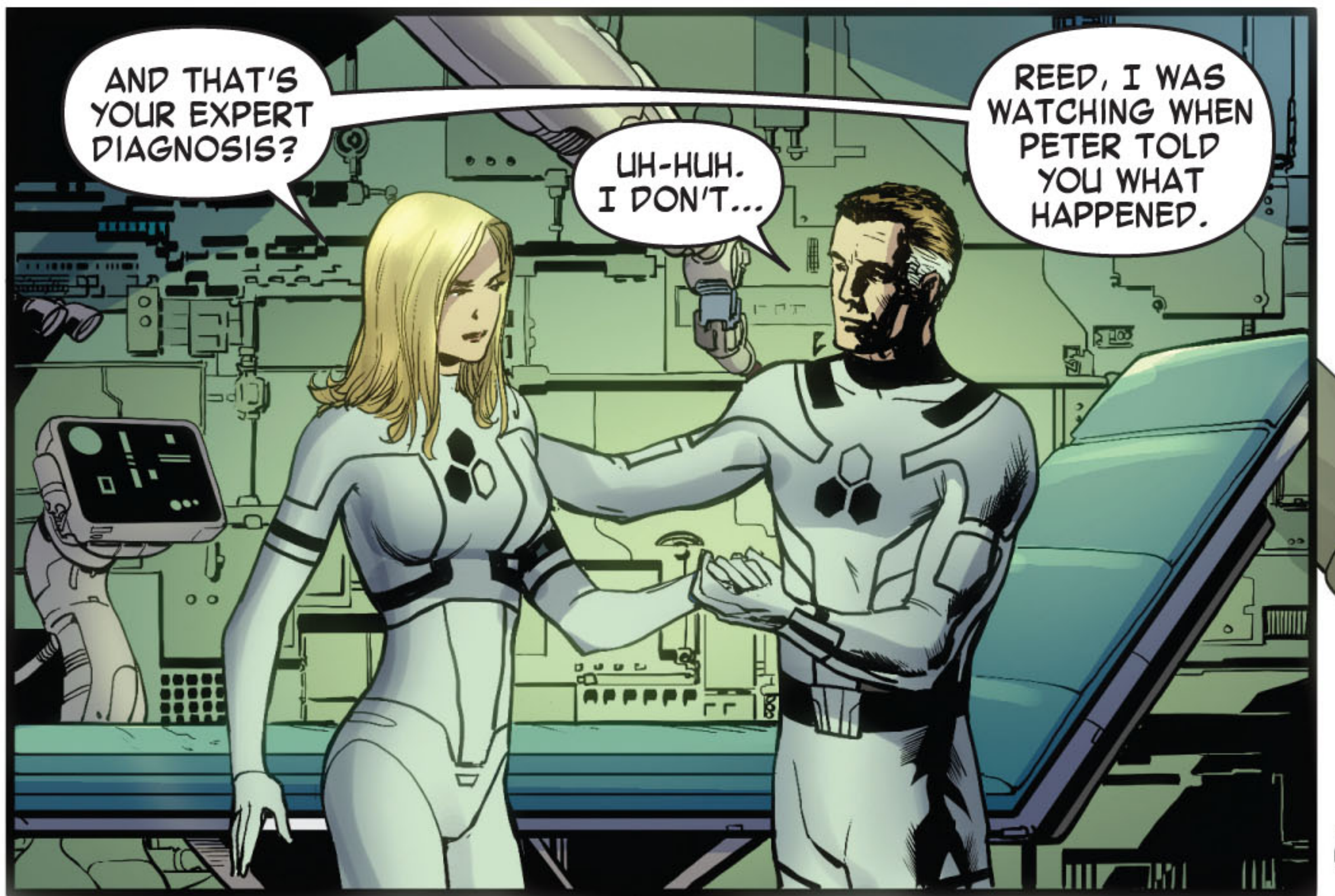
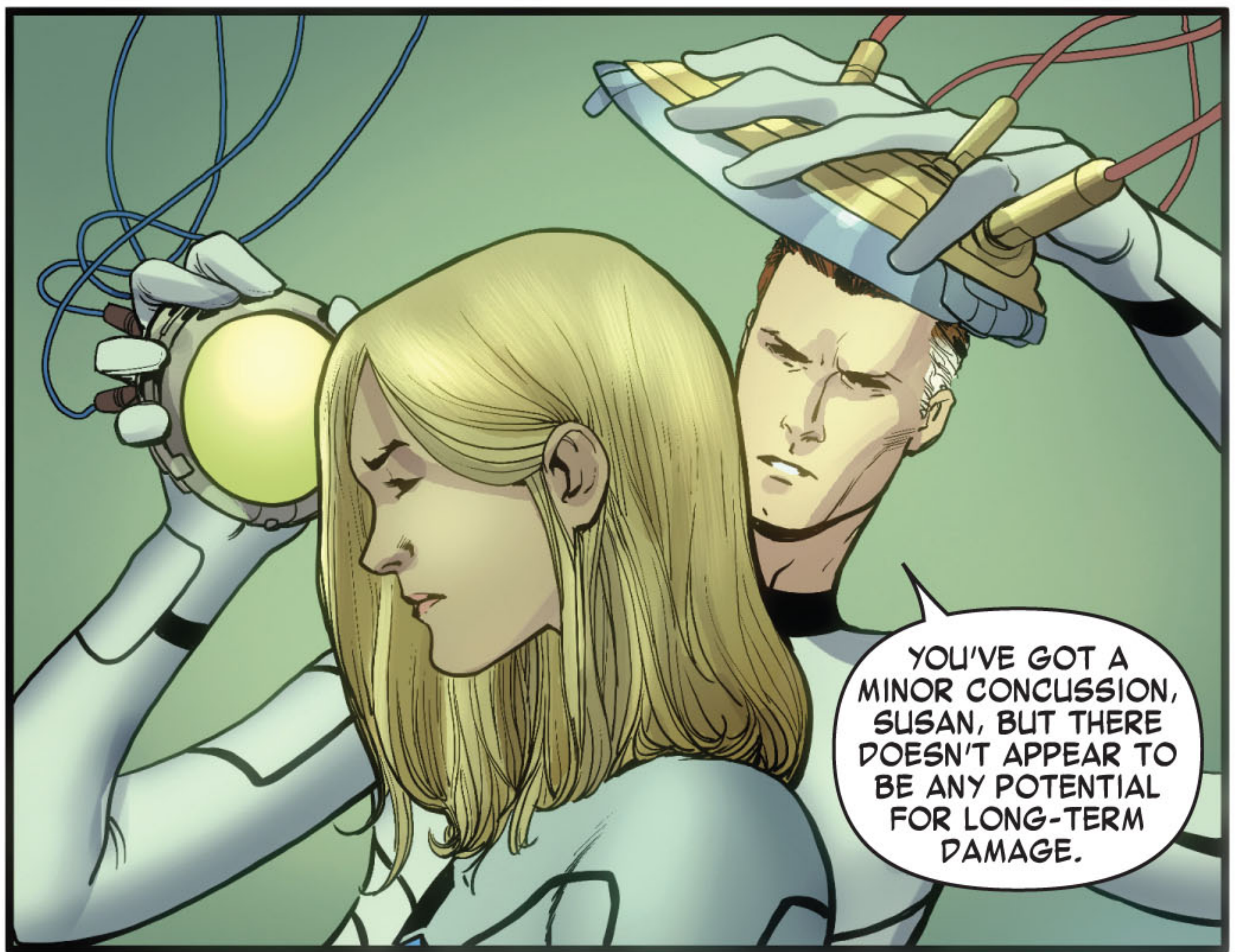
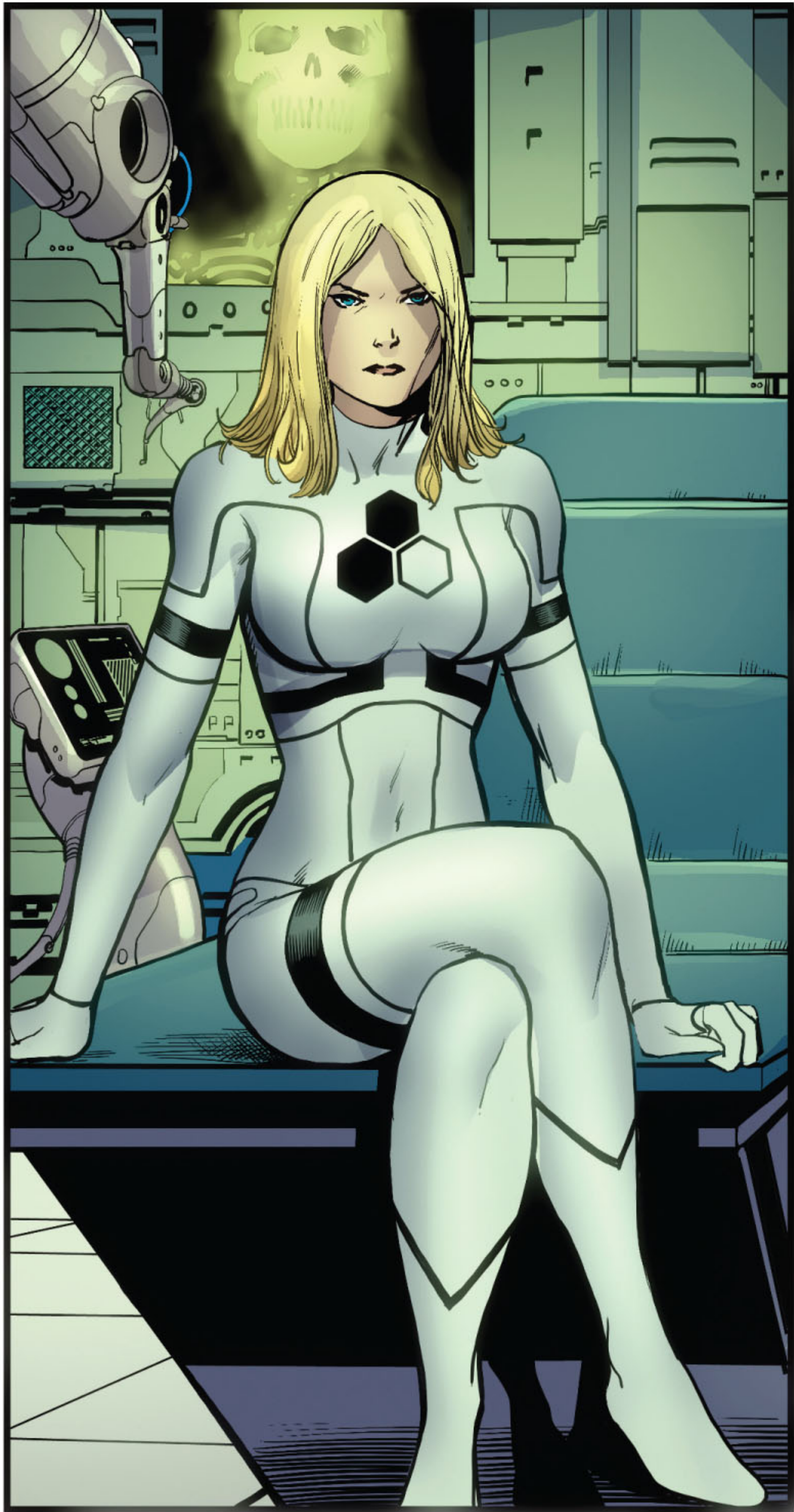


THERE'S
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID
OF.



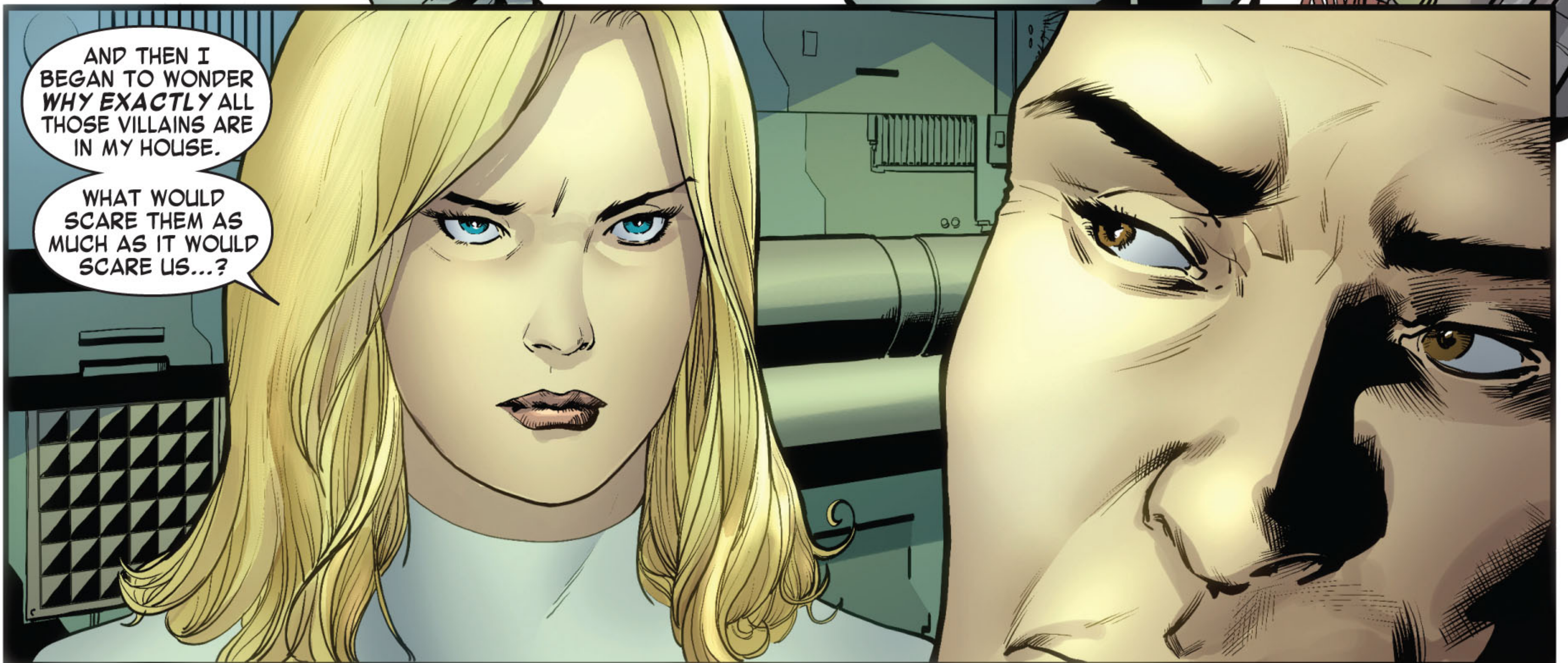
 **LATER.**

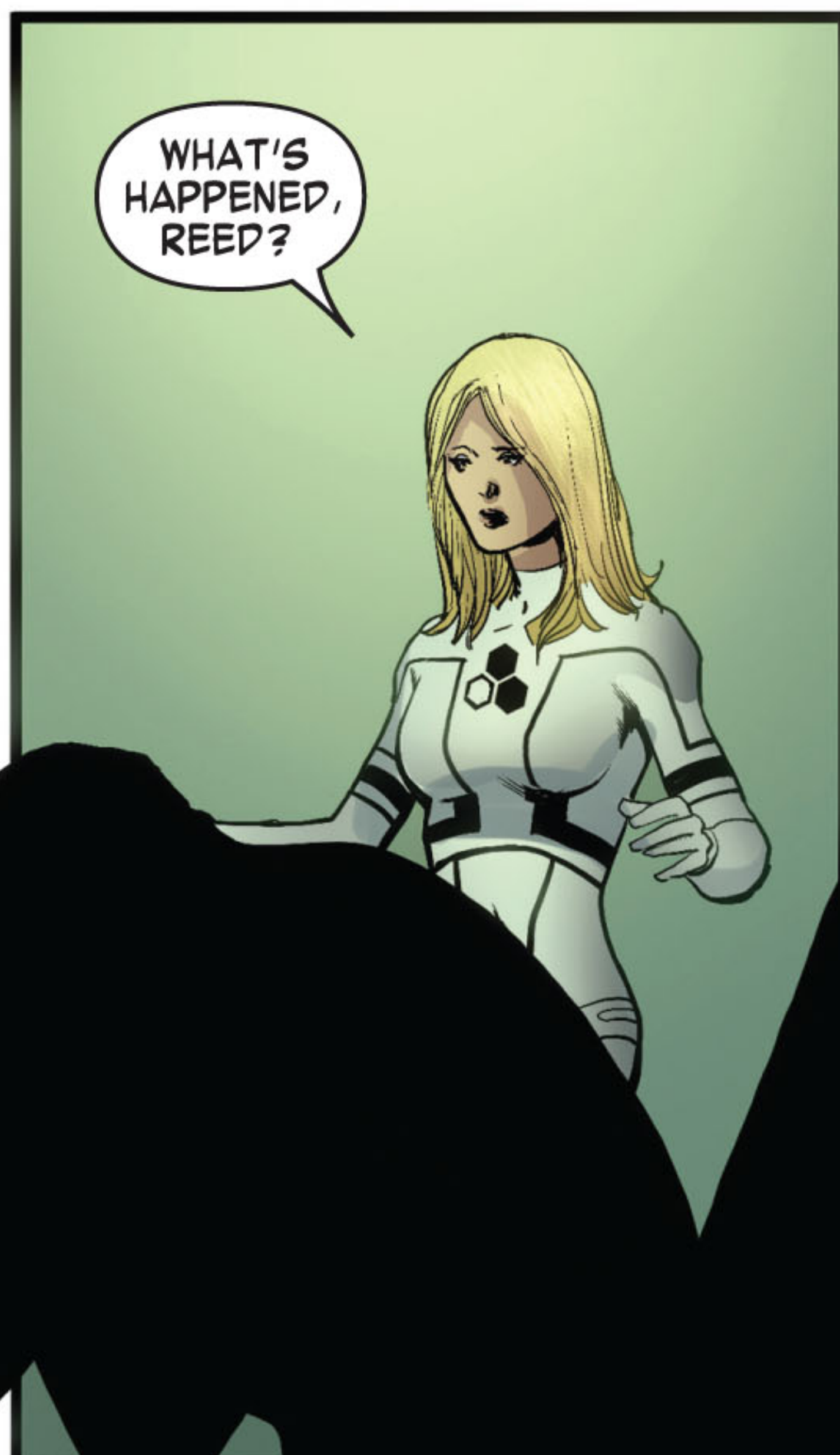
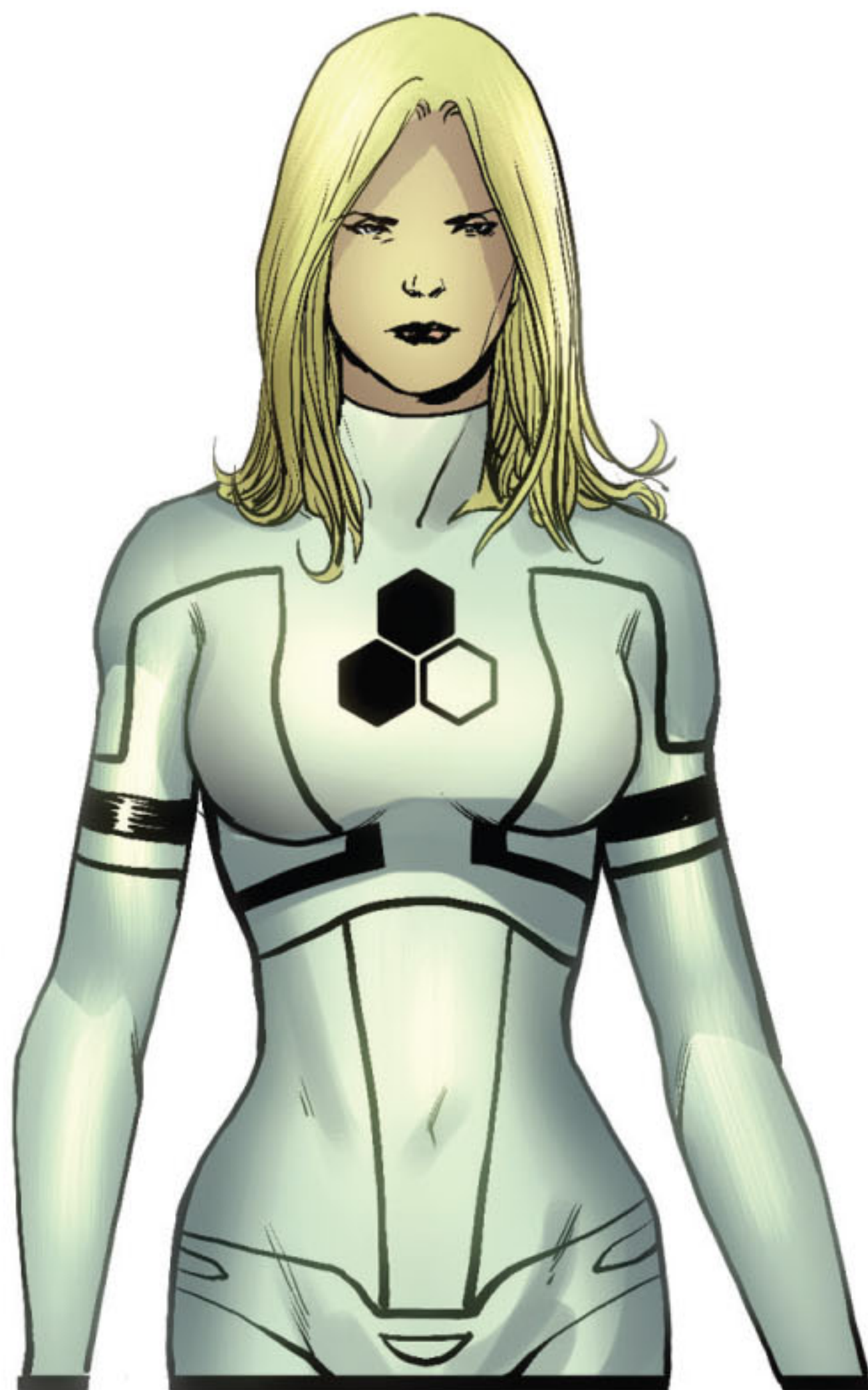
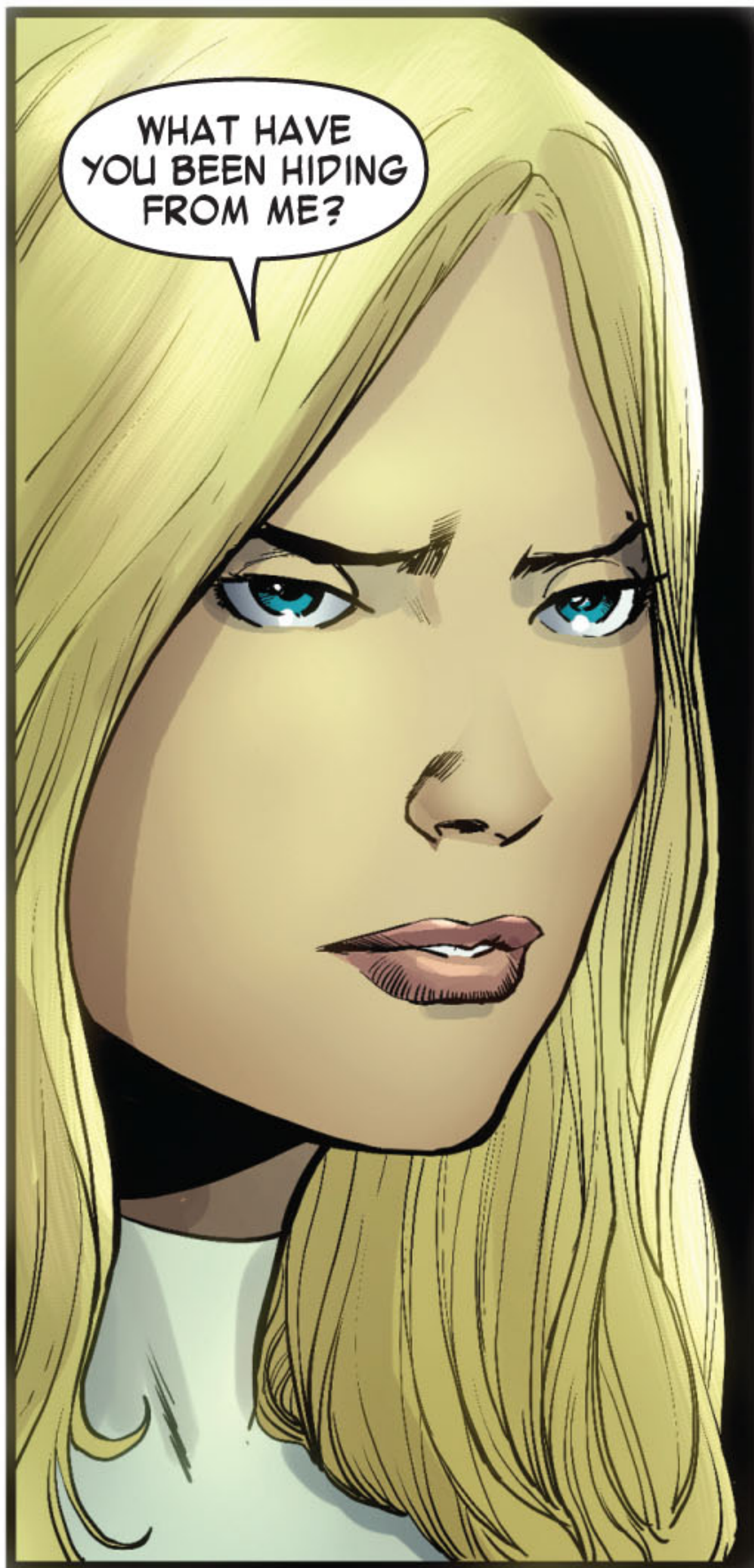




AT FIRST, I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS A DARK RAIDER OR SOME VARIANT VERSION OF THE BRUTE...

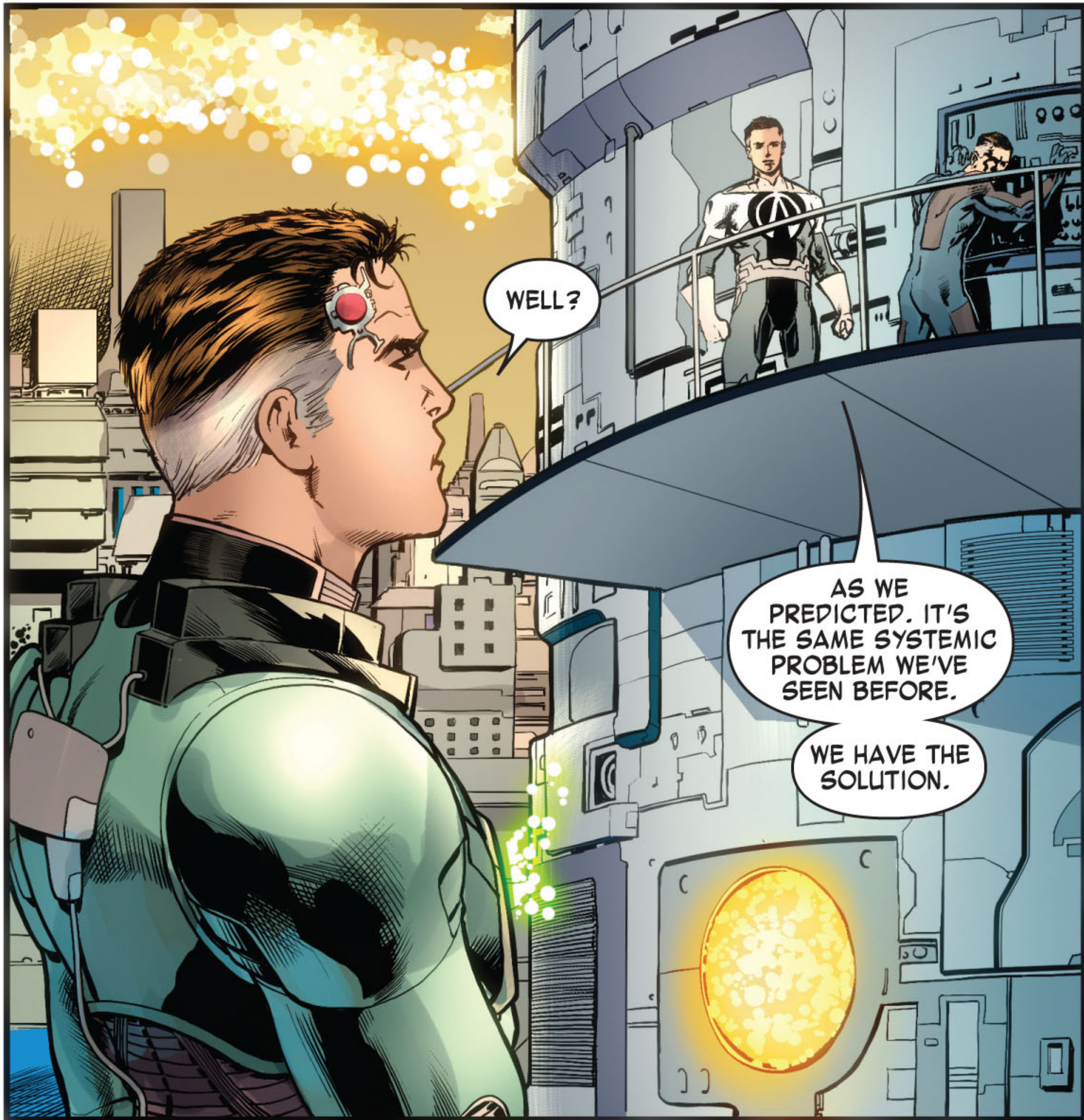
BUT WHEN PETER TOLD YOU ABOUT THE OTHER REED, YOU WEREN'T SURPRISED AT ALL.



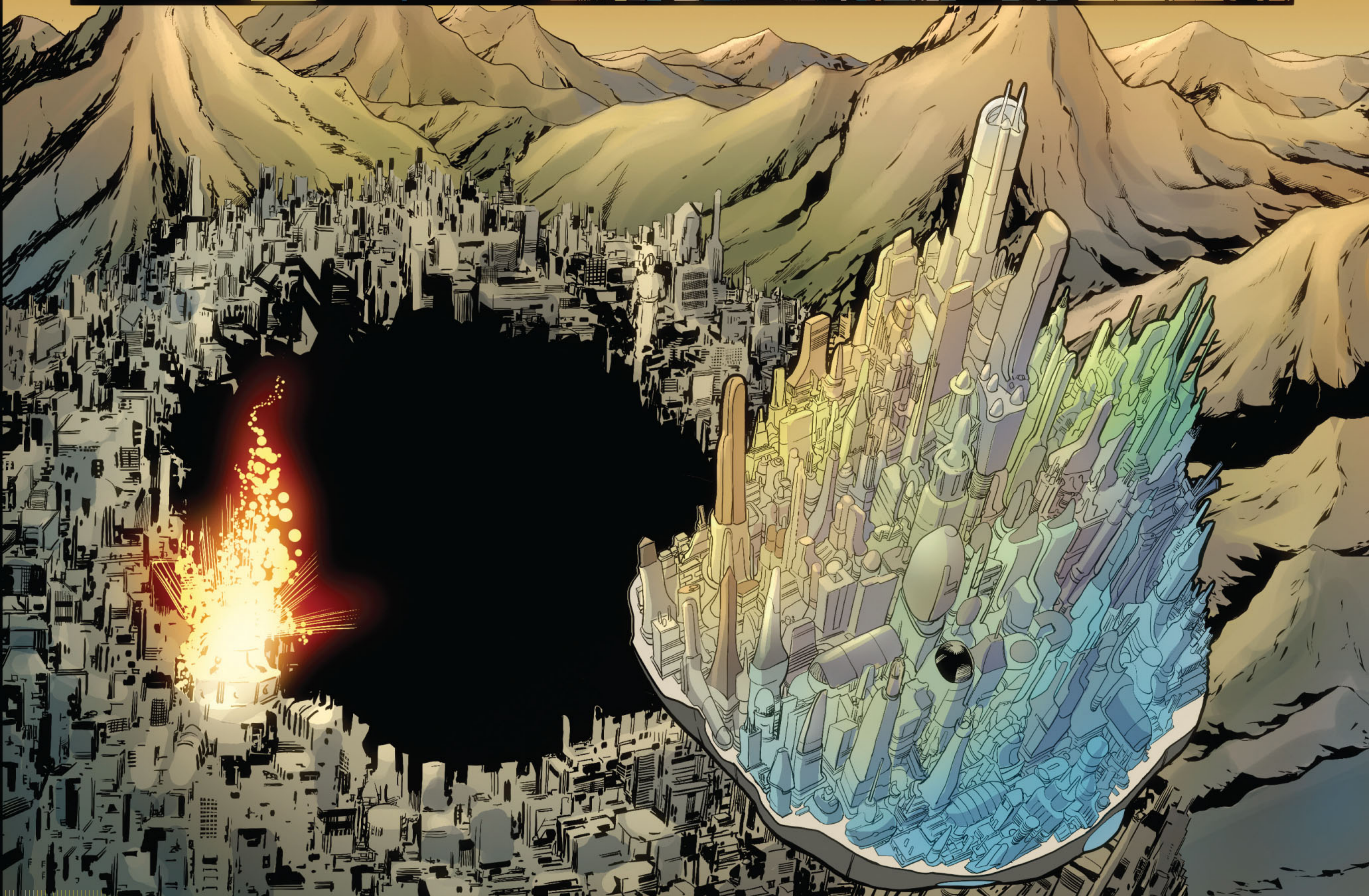


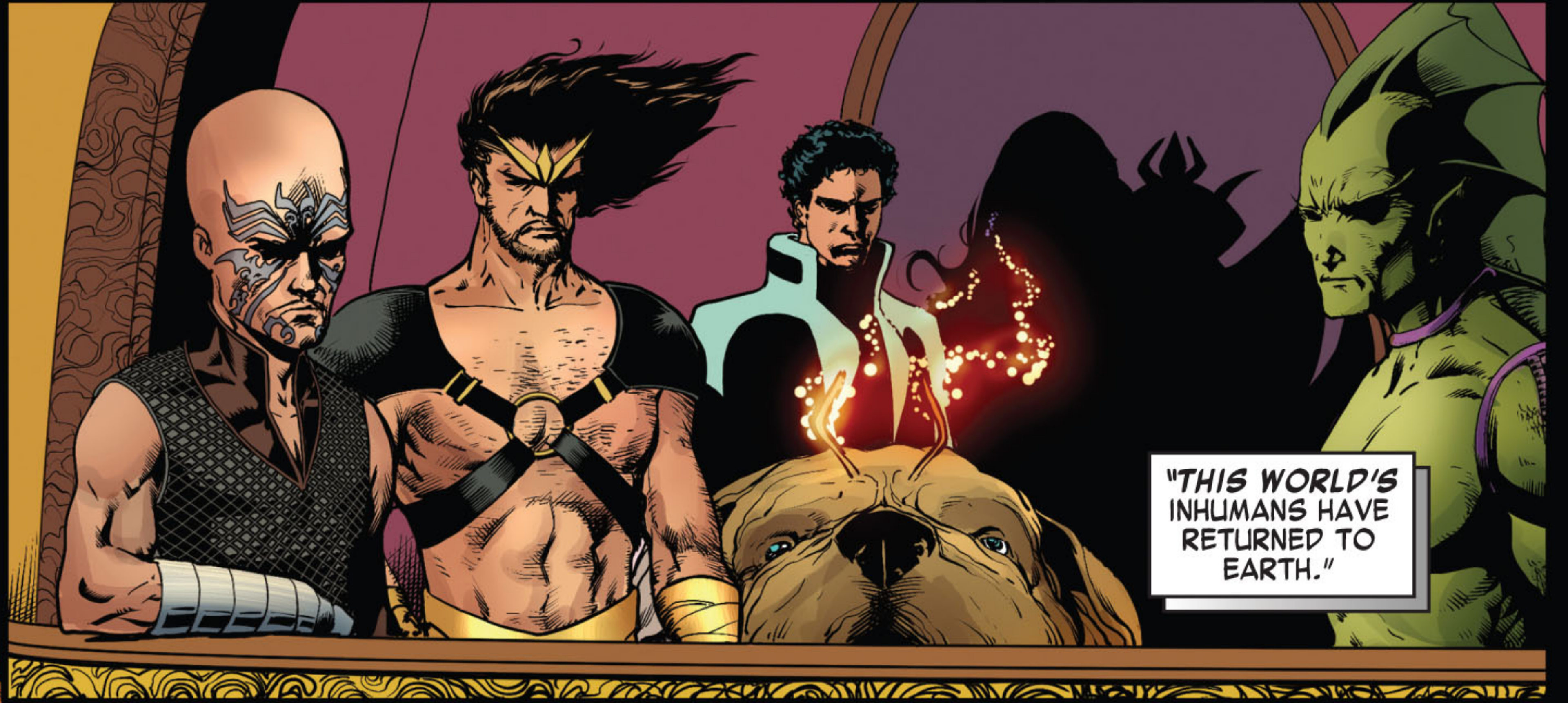
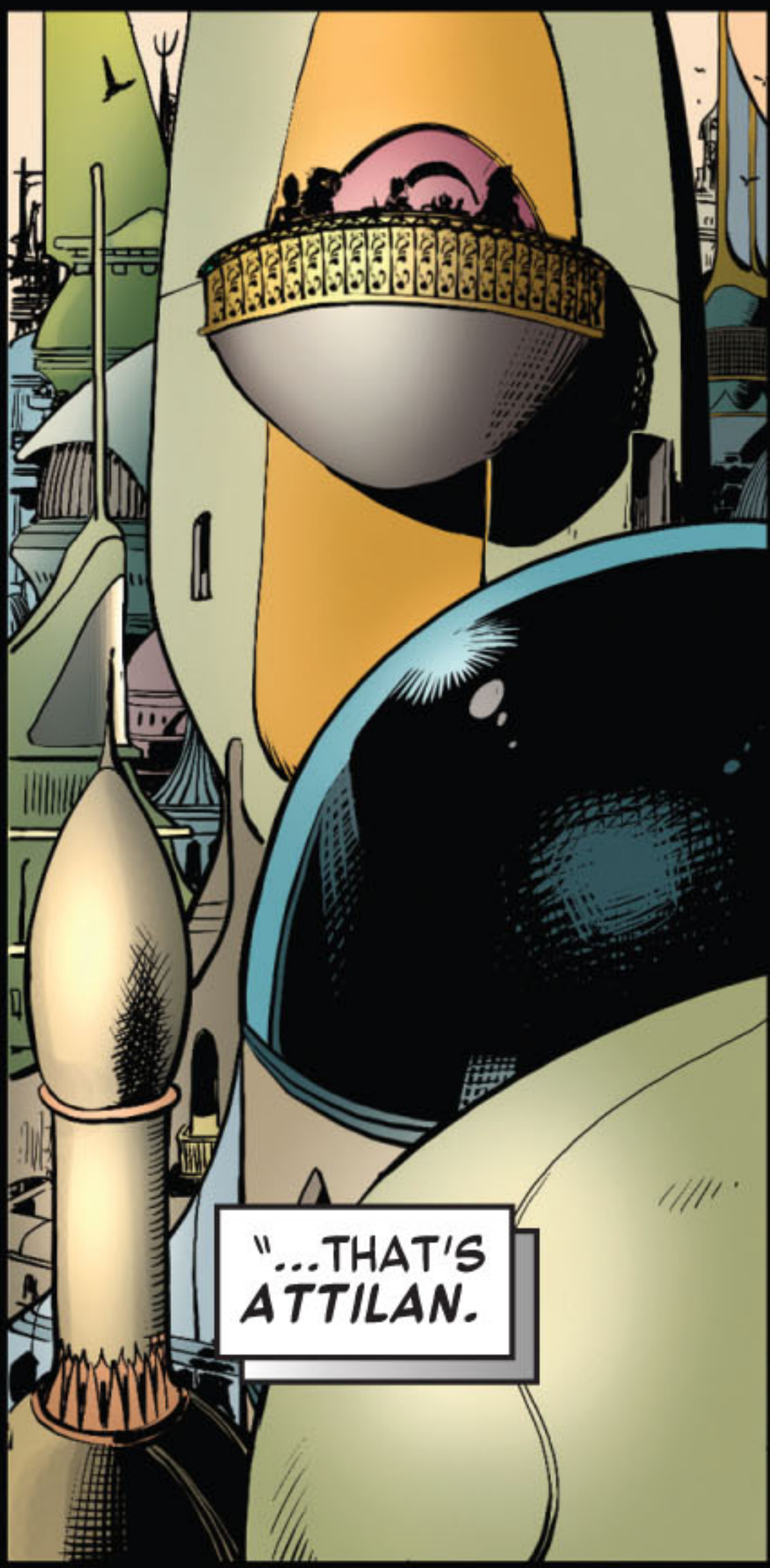


THE FOREVER CITY OF
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.









NEXT ISSUE:



THE RETURN

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